

Poems,  
Songs,  
Ballads

Carroll Ryan  
1903

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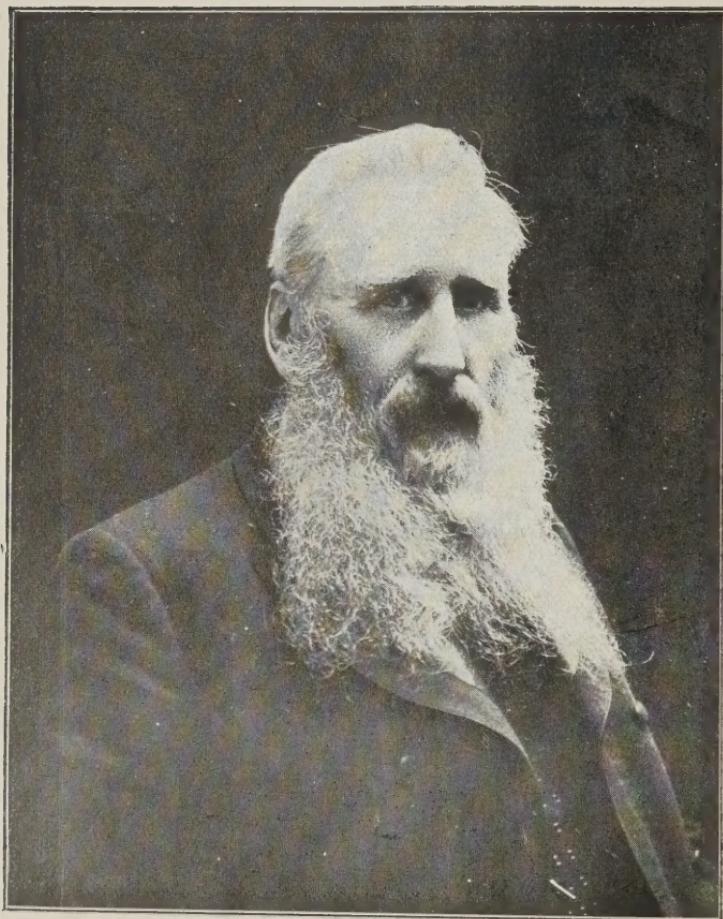
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Yours as ever  
Carroll Ryan

# POEMS, SONGS, BALLADS

BY

CARROLL RYAN.

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*“There lived a man.”*

—MONTGOMERY.

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(Illustrations by Alonzo Ryan)

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MY SONG.

To understand the song I sing  
    You must know grief like mine,  
And out of love's immortal spring  
    Drink life's divinest wine.

Ah, you must love, and lose, and learn  
    What these alone can tell,  
When thoughts of flame transcendent burn,  
    Like bolts, when angels fell.

O, you must know what 'tis to stand  
    Alone 'mid boundless night,  
To search in darkness for a hand  
    To guide your way aright,  
Yet find it not; to hear no sound,  
    No promise in the gloom—  
A spirit in a void profound—  
    The universe a tomb.

MY SONG.

If, having swooned upon the shore  
Of time, and tasted death,  
You wander back to life once more  
And feel returning breath,  
While memory recalls the strain,  
Triumphant, sweet and strong,  
That came with death, that ended pain,  
You'll understand my song.



## THE CONVENT PORTER.

He was an ancient, bearded man,  
Within the archway seated,  
Who through the summer, lone and long,  
His Rosary repeated.

He rang the bell for Matin prayers,  
At noontide for the reapers,  
And, when the evening shadows fell,  
He rang it for the keepers;  
And, sometimes, too, he tolled a knell  
For everlasting sleepers.

From day to day he said his beads,  
Within the archway staying;  
The sun arising found him there,  
And, setting, left him praying.

### THE CONVENT PORTER.

On him would little hands attend,  
And little footfalls pattered  
Around him; where the fig trees bend,  
Where purple treasures scattered;  
The whisp'ring cypress was his friend,  
For him the ivy chattered.

But seldom at that Convent gate  
A traveller dismounted;  
The outer world of love and hate  
Passed by it unaccounted,  
Monotonous, and quaint, and calm,  
The prayerful seasons glided,  
The vesper hymn and morning psalm  
The days alone divided,  
That by the dial, near the palm,  
Were left but undecided.

So years went by, until one day  
The night cloud, westward rolling,  
Came round the Friar's dim retreat,  
Without the Vesper tolling,



THE CONVENT PORTER.



THE CONVENT PORTER.

The birds still sang on ivy sprays,  
The children still were playing,  
The Porter, as in former days,  
Seemed Rosaries still saying;  
But Death had found his quiet ways,  
And took the old man praying.

## STRADA SAN GIOVANNI.

'Tis a quiet little by-way,  
Steep and rugged as Parnassus,  
Leading from the noisy highway  
Filled with Carbonari asses.  
Lofty houses lean above it,  
Whispering like neighbors canny;  
Still in memory I love it—  
Dingy Strada San Giovanni.

Shrined in niches on the corners,  
Saints and martyrs smile down grimly  
On the unbelieving scorners  
Stalking through the twilight dimly,  
Going no one knoweth whither,  
By the Casa Frangipani  
Where the votive flowers wither  
In old Strada San Giovanni.

### STRADA SAN GIOVANNI.

When the summer days were weary  
With the breathings of Sirocco,  
Blowing with persistence dreary,  
Red and sultry from Morocco,  
Pleasant was that shady alley,  
When there were not passers many,  
Like an ancient cliff-walled valley—  
Lonely Strada San Giovanni.

With her cushion, making laces,  
Deftly working like a fairy,  
Fairest of the island graces,  
Little Anna Camelleri  
Sat upon her doorstep singing,  
Giving little heed to any;  
To and fro her bobbins flinging  
In old Strada San Giovanni.

Gentle, dark-eyed little maiden—  
Dream of unforgotten pleasure—  
With her tresses, coin o'erladen,  
All her dowry and her treasure.

STRADA SAN GIOVANNI.

Long ago!—While multiplying  
Shadows gather thick and many,  
Still a sunbeam, time-defying,  
Shines in Strada San Giovanni.

## CAPRIAN WINE.

Bring me a cup of the vintage of Capri,  
Odors of violets flooding its brim;  
Here, in the cold north, I would be happy,  
Calling up memories misty and dim.  
Memories carried, like Orient treasure,  
Over the seas to the homes of the West,  
Gathered by hearts palpitating with pleasure.  
Locked in the casket of love in my breast.

Voices that sound like the wind in the cedars.  
Come with the odors of Capri to me,  
With hands that were faithful and tireless weavers,  
In gardens of life reaching down to the sea.  
Thirst of my spirit this vintage can slaken,  
Time, sorrow and distance, like clouds, disappear.  
Long silent singers their strains re-awaken,  
The brave and the noble who perished are here.

CAPRIAN WINE.

Up from the beaker, as up from the ocean,  
    Visions arise like the beautiful dead;  
Coming in dreams, with a living emotion,  
    And pale fingers parting the curtains of dread.  
Rosy cheeks nestling adown in white pillows,  
    Fanned by the wings that are not for our gaze,  
Hoary heads sinking fast under the billows,  
    Driven by tempests for many long days.

Lost in the past, like the victims who perished,  
    Hurled from the cliff by the tyrant of old;  
Who has their names or their memories cherished,  
    Who has the tale of their mystery told?  
Violets bloom where the loving are lying,  
    They breathe in the odor and smile in the vine;  
Kiss, rosy lips, separation defying,—  
    I bless thee for giving this Caprian Wine.

## MY MOUNTAIN HOME.

The trees have grown so stout and tall  
    Around my dear old mountain home.  
The Pine, the Oak, the Maple—all  
    That answer to the winds that roam.  
About the ivied hall.

Among their shadows long ago  
    My youth, all passionate and wild,  
Chased phantoms I have learned to know  
    Could only haunt a dreaming child  
Unreconciled to woe.

With wonder through their branches high,  
    I looked on each mysterious star,  
And thought, if I were then to die,  
    My soul would rise and soar afar  
Untrammeled through the sky.

### MY MOUNTAIN HOME.

Here was my father's fav'rite seat  
And there was oft my mother's place:  
The path is worn by many feet,  
But she will nevermore retrace  
Her way to this retreat.

Time rolls along its ceaseless wave,  
And years on weary years have past,  
Since through those trees, so tall and brave,  
The red October's blighting blast  
Strewed leaves upon her grave.

Now others share her lowly sleep  
Who then were dear—the old, the young—  
Still I must toil along the deep,  
With heart by many sorrows wrung,  
And watch, and wait, and weep.

## THE ELM TREE.

Old giant from the days we call primeval,  
In solitary greatness rooted there;  
Lifting thy splendid head in pride coeval  
With the dark mountain to the higher air.

A grand old elm, but not an elm tree only,  
For in thee dwells the spirit of the years.  
The passer sees thee standing vast and lonely—  
To him no awful presence there appears.

He does not see the phantoms thee surrounding,  
Nor hear the voices from thy branches call,  
Nor the low echoes from the rocks resounding;  
Thy myst'ry cannot be resolved by all.

### THE ELM TREE.

But there is one within my father's dwelling,  
Who from his window gazes out on thee.  
He knows, Old Tree, the tale that thou art telling,  
He hears and sees what none else hear or see.

Thou hast a secret, Old Elm, worth the keeping,  
We children knew it not in early days;  
But they who far beyond thy shade are sleeping  
Revealed it to us ere they went their ways.

God pity us who sadly wait with shrinking,  
Like one sweet spirit for the falling leaf.  
O, Brother, mine! in darkness I am thinking  
Of severed branches and a scattered sheaf.

Down the long road that dips into the valley  
The love-crowned visions of our youth have fled;  
While like lost mariners we keep a tally  
Of the sad years in desolation sped.



THE ELM TREE.



THE ELM TREE.

But O, remember, in these doubtful mazes  
There is a fountain by the elm tree blest,  
And the weird presence in its branches gazes  
Through hope's bright portal in the happy west.

## AN OLD TORONTO BOY.

"Take care, Old Man!" "I thank you, sir."  
"What street is this I'm on?"  
"King-street." "And can you tell me where  
I'll find the Helicon?"  
"There's no such place. But if you are  
A stranger, you can go  
To the Rossin, it is not far."  
"Across the street?" "Just so."

King street—a stranger—let me think  
Rise up, ye stones, and tell  
The memories that sweetly link  
Crocus with asphodel.  
The faces look Toronto-like.  
I feel my mother earth,  
St. James' clock! I hear it strike.  
This is my place of birth.

### AN OLD TORONTO BOY.

But Oh, how changed! I look along  
The old familiar street.  
The bellman, yes, I hear his song,  
And the tramp of vanished feet.  
Toronto! I could fall and kiss  
The very ground I tread.  
O, Mother! Father! Sisters! this  
Is speaking with the dead.

'Twas here that I first learned to be,  
To read, to write, to row,  
'Twas here I learned my A B C,  
Some sixty years ago.  
'Twas here that I became a man—  
First knew of love the joy.  
'Twas here the strange, wild race began  
Of an Old Toronto Boy.

## ISLE OF MEMORY.

L'ultimo, lasso, de miei giorni allegri,  
Che pochi no visto in questo, viver breve.

*Petrarca, Sonetto CCLXXXIV.*

O, most dear to memory  
Is that Island in the sea,  
Where the wild purple passion-flower blooms;  
There the breezes sink to sleep  
On the bosom of the deep,  
Made drowsy with the weight of sweet perfumes.

There the towers darkly frown  
High above the subject town,  
Where the banner of the Master floats no more;  
And the sound of convent bells  
From the valley upward swells,  
And the Lotus-eaters dream upon the shore.

ISLE OF MEMORY.

There a saint's uplifted hand  
Pours a blessing on the land,  
And pilgrims kneel before the lighted fane;  
And the old heroic past  
Throws a shadow dim and vast,  
Like a giant's, from the mountain to the plain.

Now my heart beats faint and slow  
In this land of storm and snow,  
As I picture to myself that happy scene;  
But the beautiful was mine,  
In the land of song and wine,  
And my soul rejoices now that such has been.

## SENTENCED TO DEATH.

I must die on Friday the first.

I have three weeks more to repent.

Thank heaven! I now know the worst  
Of the law that will never relent.

But why should I grieve or be sad?

What is there in death that is worth  
A thought to a spirit who had  
More reason for terror in birth?

But I'm not alone in my doom,  
Though fixed are my moments of breath;  
I walk on the path to the tomb  
With millions—all sentenced to death!  
What is life? When hunger is fed,  
Curiosity all satisfied,  
We wearily turn on our bed  
And sleep a long sleep undenied.

### SENTENCED TO DEATH.

They talk of the mercy of God,  
    Of Jesus who died for my sins,—  
A toss-up among rascals who nod  
    Approval when worst rascal wins!  
Well, let them go on with their game;  
    I, at least, am no hypocrite vile:  
In the depths of my sorrow and shame,  
    I can turn from their gods with a smile.

If the mercy of God were like theirs,  
    Could words its malignancy tell?  
Hang the wretch! He's a fellow who dares  
    To think, and then send him to hell;  
The villain who robbed me of all  
    That gave satisfaction to breath,  
I slew as a serpent in coil—  
    I sentenced and sent *him* to death.

Civilization and progress—all cant,  
    Hypocrisy, subterfuge, sham!  
Religion that runs into rant  
    Expires while muttering “Damn!”

SENTENCED TO DEATH.

Condemn me to death! Very good!  
What care I for rope or for knife;  
I stand where all martyrs have stood;  
You cannot condemn me to life!

But the God who is Lord over all  
Will look into my heart, and He knows  
The agony, wormwood and gall,  
The insults, the lashes, the blows.  
He has hidden and He will reveal;  
'Tis mine to pass under the rod.  
From the sentence of man I appeal  
To the justice eternal of God.

### A DREAM-SONG.

A love-song died on my heart in a dream  
That I dreamed in the long ago,  
But an echo of that sweet song would seem  
Thro' my being ever to flow.  
I never can catch the words or the tune,  
Though often and often I try,  
The syllables fail, like an ancient rune,  
The melody breaks in a sigh.

And sometimes I pause when I hear the note  
Of a bird, or the laugh of a child;  
Then into my spirit there seems to float  
A part of the song that beguiled.  
The winds in the pines have an echo sweet  
Of the memory deep and strong,  
And even the voices up from the street  
Have sounds like my beautiful song.

A DREAM SONG.

But the chords will break and the words will fail,

For my thought has a thousand wings;

And in place of my song I hear the wail

The lost to my memory brings.

I know that I never shall hear my song,

All sung as it was long ago,

Till the shadows of life are dark and long,

And my footsteps gentle and slow.

When the sounds of the strife grow faint and far—

And the thought of the storm, between

The rise of the glorious morning star

And the setting that is not seen,

Have faded all from my spirit away,

While sorrow and pain will but seem,

The song that died on my heart that day

Will return and restore my dream.

## THE PARTING GUEST.

Oh, sigh no more for the days that are gone—  
Dim shadows of ghosts that are dumb—  
What if this sunset be lurid or wan,  
There's a glorious sunrise to come.

What if the friends you have cherished be dead?  
The woman you loved be untrue?  
They are the losers of heavenly bread,  
And wine of good living—not you.

Have you not supped with the gods in your time,  
With Psyche to gladden the night?  
Tasted the rapture of love in its prime  
Along with the children of light?

THE PARTING GUEST.

Unbidden a guest at the banquet of life  
All naked you came and were clad:  
Hungry we fed you—we gave you a wife,  
And thirsty, our wine made you glad.

Riches we gave you—our gems and our gold—  
We loved you, and made you our king—  
Taught you our wisdom—the secret we told  
Of serpent, of rose, and of ring.

Now a last favor, we open the gate,  
That you may pass out and away;  
Here, it is ordered, must ev'ryone wait,  
But none is permitted to stay.

## HERE AND NOW.

I hold that all mankind can be  
Made happy if they will,  
That Evil's a monstrosity  
Which Love and Truth can kill;

That Kindness, as a law of life,  
Will make our joys increase;  
That Death is but a truce to strife  
Before a lasting peace.

Although our lives imperfect be,  
They can be perfect made,  
And glorified Humanity  
In all our works displayed.

HERE AND NOW.

A noble thing to nobler leads,  
The great succeeds the small,  
To glorious thoughts, and words, and deeds,  
We all are heirs of all.

All things the good and wise have taught  
Through ages dark and long—  
The victories for which they fought—  
To us by right belong.

We are the heirs of God-like sires—  
The children of the Sun—  
Who in our souls retain the fires  
That once Prometheus won.

From day to day, from year to year,  
'Tis ours to think and do;  
To know no creed that teaches fear,  
But only seek the true.

HERE AND NOW.

To be at peace with all mankind,  
Do good whene'er we can,  
And with a common blessing bind  
The brotherhood of man.

## IN EXILE.

An angel with a flaming sword  
Has shut me out of Paradise,  
For I have sinned before the Lord,  
And exile is my sacrifice.

Yet I am brother to the stars—  
I know the path that they must tread,  
Since, fighting in angelic wars,  
The lightnings circle round my head.

No bolt can kill this living soul,  
Though chaos black blot out the day,  
And heaven, like a shrivelled scroll,  
Burn up, dissolve, and pass away.

IN EXILE.

Before the birth of mother night,  
From whom came all created things,  
My spirit came on endless flight,  
The past and future are its wings.

Son of the Morning, in my hand  
I bear a torch from other spheres;  
Its light will spread o'er every land,  
And shine thro' all the coming years.

For ye shall know me by a sign,  
When fire is kindled at my breath,  
And comes a messenger divine,  
Whose form is life, whose shadow death!

## AT PEACE

O, footsteps sounding in the night  
Along the empty city street,  
Go ye, like me, in laggard flight,  
Your doom to meet?

Or go ye to a region blest  
Some place of quiet—call it home,  
Where you may ease your toil and rest,  
While I must roam?

O, voices, calling through the gloom,  
Speak ye but to my heart alone  
Of hope that rises o'er the doom  
Which I bemoan?

AT PEACE.

Or are ye echoes of the past,  
When love was young and life was glad,  
When nothing could a shadow cast,  
Or make me sad?

O, music falling from the stars,  
A promise of the things to be  
When, passed beyond these mortal bars,  
I will be free,

Art thou the spirit of the sphere  
Where dwells the love I thought was dead?  
Spirit of beauty! thou art near;  
I hear thy tread!

O, footsteps, voices, music, all  
I ever knew to love, behold  
I've drawn the curtain, spread the pall,  
My hearth is cold!

AT PEACE.

All silent now, I hear no sound,  
And soon the throbbing heart must cease.  
A mighty presence wraps me round.  
I am at peace.

## THE GIFT OF WISDOM.

My spirit bids defiance to decay.  
I am not old. This body may grow weak,  
Its senses fail and all its wondrous powers  
Collapse and sink in death, but I will rise  
Immortal o'er the ruin and ascend  
To join the host invisible to men  
Sojourning here. As I have thought and toiled  
To make myself fit for the company  
Of god-like souls of those whom you call dead,  
But who, I know, are living grand and free  
In spheres transcendent, so I hope to be  
Translated on my merits. If I've failed  
In my high purpose, self-conquest, victory  
O'er sordid things, low passions, mean desires,  
Ambition for a place in men's esteem,

### THE GIFTS OF WISDOM.

To that extent of failure I must share  
The company of others like myself.  
But there I will be satisfied, because  
I know with kindred spirits I would be,  
And go on striving, as I did on earth,  
To rise to higher things.

For wisdom I  
Have prayed and, like the sage of ancient days,  
I found that wisdom is increase of sorrow.  
But in that sorrow was a secret balm,  
Laid on my heart in one swift flash of light  
When I stood face to face with God alone.  
For one ecstatic moment, Lo! the veil,  
Which hides the mystery of life was drawn,  
And the great deep to its remotest bound  
Was all revealed.

My sorrow is no more;  
I have no fear. I know, for I have seen  
The orb ineffable, and am content.

### THE GIFTS OF WISDOM.

Misfortune now may come, the tempest rage,  
Pain, sorrow, suffering, the scorn of men,  
Hunger and poverty, aye, Death itself,  
O'erwhelm this mortal. I can bear them all,  
Because I know their meaning and their end.  
And when the time for my departure comes,  
I'll cast away this robe of flesh, and rise  
Triumphant in the love that gave to me  
The gift of wisdom ere I left the earth.

VERA.

Dear child, I know not if thy poor old father,  
Who mourns for thee in silence and alone,  
May in a long neglected garden gather  
Sweet blossoms in forgotten beauty grown.

But I will go where thy dear hands have planted  
True thoughts that blossom into deeds of love,  
There I will pray and, if my prayer be granted,  
'Twill not be long before we meet above.

Creatures beloved with sad beseeching eyes,  
The fields, the trees, the hills, the distant lake,  
Are blessèd for their many memories  
Of thee, and glorified for thy dear sake.

VERA.

Not thou, but I, should have been snatched from life,  
I had my day, but thou was't fair and young,  
For I am old and weary of the strife,  
While thy sweet psalm of life was all unsung.

But this is not the whole of life. In dreaming  
I oft behold thee coming from afar,  
With high immortal love and beauty beaming,  
A messenger from some more happy star.

The few short years of time that we have reckon'd  
Were but the fragments of an endless sphere;  
Thy mission finished, higher duties beckon'd—  
Not thy beginning, nor thy ending here.

The pure and good, who bless the earth, must die—  
Wrong reigns triumphant—love is void of breath;  
While flaunting vice in health robust goes by,  
Lean wretchedness in vain implores for death.

VERA.

Ah, surely, God! to us so poor and lonely,  
Might have been left this flow'r of winter years;  
We had so little! Of our treasure only  
Remains a memory embalmed in tears.

But Oh, for death I thank Thee God, my Father!  
I have no terrors. I will not despair.  
Thy will be done! In death no shadows gather.  
I could not keep her here, nor lose her there.

## THE RAINBOW.

I chased a rainbow in my youth  
To seek a pot of gold;  
I found it not, but find a truth,  
Now I am growing old.

The rainbow arched the tearful skies,  
The sunlight shining through,  
And where it touched the earth a prize  
Must surely be, I knew.

High hills, low vales I travelled o'er,  
O'er ocean, too, I sped;  
The golden treasure still before,  
And still the rainbow fled.

Meantime the years were gliding by,  
And I was growing old;  
Yet still the rainbow filled my eye,  
My heart the pot of gold.

THE RAINBOW.

At last the sun began to set  
    Beyond the outer rim  
Where sea and sky commingling met,  
    Then all around grew dim.  
My rainbow faded, and I cried,  
    For I was weak and old;—  
O, I had lost my Iris guide,  
    And missed my pot of gold.

Then darkness hemmed me all about,  
    The sea and sky were black,  
My farther way was one of doubt—  
    If forward, or if back.  
Then to my listening soul a thought  
    Came with a hope divine—  
“Beyond the stars the treasure sought,  
    The beauty shall be thine.”

Now, though I wander all alone,  
    No Iris in my sky,  
The glory that for me has shone  
    In spirit cannot die.

THE RAINBOW.

I chased a rainbow in my youth  
To seek a pot of gold,  
I found it not, but find a truth,  
Now I am growing old.

## MYSTIC FAITH.

The dream of life, the mystery of death,  
The hope of heaven and the fear of hell,  
Lose all their terrors with the failing breath—  
God must do right, and, therefore, all is well.

Thus far I've come, not knowing whence or why,  
Through stormy years the upward path I've trod;  
At last I know that, while I cannot die,  
The path of sorrow is the way to God.

The love that sacrifices all is mine;  
This life is but the childhood of my soul;  
I brought from other spheres a spark divine;  
I know a part and yet will know the whole.

Conscience within unlocks the book of fate;  
Eternal Must subdues the mortal Will.  
This is the secret! Standing at the gate  
Of death I learn it. Peace, O soul, be still!

### THE PILGRIM.

O, tree of life! the storms of years are shaking  
Thy fruit to earth, while comes autumnal night,  
And one by one the ties of time are breaking,  
While one by one my loves are taking flight.

Behold, the high resolves of youth are ended;  
No more I chase the phantom of my quest.  
My work is now complete. I have ascended  
The last high peak to view the land of rest.

The sunbeams thro' the mountains backward slanting  
Tell me the night is near, the goal below;  
I hear inviting voices welcomes chanting;—  
Give me my robe and staff, and let me go.

### THE PILGRIM.

Love, fame, ambition, all the phantom glories  
That lured me hither, leave me now alone;  
The woeful moral of forgotten stories  
I write, forgetting, on this wayside stone.

I see the footprints others made before me,  
And I will follow them into the gloom,  
While these poor flow'rs that I have gathered gore  
me  
With thorns that fittingly may deck a tomb.

Farewell to all I love! Beyond the river  
Are white-robed visions of immortal birth.  
Behold, the hand that taketh was the giver.  
Farewell to all my dreams! Farewell to earth!

FEBRUARY 3, 1899.

Just sixty years ago to-day,  
    Into this wicked world  
A little, helpless baby boy  
    Was all unconscious hurled.

He went to school, he went to sea,  
    He went to war also;  
But why or what for, never he  
    Could understand or know.

O, sometimes he would hungry be,  
    And sometimes he was cold;  
He knew the pinch of poverty—  
    The luxury of gold.

FEBRUARY 3, 1899.

But ever, as he went along,  
    He struggled with a doubt—  
What is the meaning of it all?  
    What is it all about?

He trod the busy market place  
    Where traders cheat and lie,  
And saw in every sordid face  
    Why many starve and die.

The money-changers, as of old,  
    Were gloating on their gains;  
And love was bought, and justice sold  
    In palaces and lanes.

Then looking back he saw the world  
    Was ever such as these,  
And thought—if this be right, O God!  
    All life is but disease.

FEBRUARY 3, 1899.

A flame from heaven touched his lips;  
He sang with passion strong;  
And those who heard in passing ships  
Could ne'er forget his song.

In lowest valley he reposed,  
Where flows the sacred rill;  
He passed the desert plain and stood  
Upon the highest hill.

He questioned sun, and moon, and stars,  
The works and books of men;  
He sat with prisoners under bars,  
With tigers in their den.

And women loved him, children sought  
His blessing, but alas!—  
He gave them all he had to give,  
Then passed as shadows pass.

FEBRUARY 3, 1899.

Now old and worn he asks himself—  
    What have I for my years?  
Have I gained happiness, or pelf,  
    Or solace in my tears?

Is there a thought, a line, a word  
    Of wisdom I can show?—  
I only know I fear no Lord,  
    And that is all I know!

## A POET'S LOVE.

O ! lady, look from out thy bower  
O'er all this smiling land,  
Where thousands own a noble's power  
And answer his command.  
A hundred steeds are in his stalls,  
His ships are on the sea,  
While wealth adorns his lordly halls—  
A mighty man is he.

Now send thy thought, like yonder bird,  
Far o'er the distant wave,  
Where'er the songs of love are heard  
Among the good and brave;  
O'er all the world thy thought may roam  
My songs shall echo free,  
And battlefield, and quiet home  
A welcome have for me.

A POET'S LOVE.

The noble may have wealth and pride,  
A high and titled name,  
But what are all he has beside  
A Poet's living fame?  
His might is bounded by those hills,  
Mine like the ocean rolls,  
A thousand hands work when he wills,  
I sway ten thousand souls!

A faithful heart in him may live,  
And all its love be thine,  
But O! the Poet's heart can give  
A passion more divine.  
His love will fade away with years,  
And end with death at last,  
But mine will live in smiles and tears  
When centuries have pass'd.

## I ONLY SING FOR THOSE I LOVE.

I only sing for those I love,  
Nor care for praise or blame  
From those whose smilings only prove  
Them heartless, cold, or tame.  
But those who love and suffer may  
Find solace in my songs,  
For only unto such as they  
My wild, sad strain belongs.

I will not curb my spirit down  
To earth, or earthly eyes,  
Nor hang upon the smile or frown  
Of those I do not prize.  
I have a kingdom of my own  
The world and men above,  
Which is my home, so I alone  
Will sing for those I love.

## AFTER MANY YEARS.

After many years and long,  
Once again I hear the song  
Of the wildbirds in the branches singing free,  
And tho' old, and bent, and gray,  
My glad heart responds to-day  
**As** I turn to thoughts of youth, of love, of thee.

I have crossed the great divide,  
I am on the sunset side,  
Looking down into the valley of the dead;  
But beyond the utmost rim  
Of the far horizon dim  
A light, as from an open door, is spread.

AFTER MANY YEARS.

It may lead I know not where,  
But I trust and pray that there  
Our spirits will attain a higher birth;  
That the hopes we cherished here  
Will within a brighter sphere  
Find fruition that they cannot find on earth.

When the shadows pass away  
In the glory of that day,  
No love, like ours pure, will ever cease.  
Let us hail that coming time,  
In a dream of hope sublime—  
Hand in hand forever on the Path of Peace.

## SEPARATED.

What matters the tramp of the crowd on the high-way  
When his step will never more come to the gate?  
Oh, what do I care now how many come my way,  
When he never comes to me early or late?

He gave me his dear love, all others forsaking  
His hand and his home with his love he gave me;  
But what of it all to a heart that is breaking  
To clasp him again, whom I never shall see.

In the morn when I rise I fling open my casement,  
Still thinking to hear his light step on the mould,  
Tho' I know in my heart that no greater amazement  
Could be than the sight of my lover of old.

### SEPARATED.

I strive to be still while I wait for his coming,  
I tidy his room, put his chair in its place,  
I gather my work, and his fav'rite airs humming,  
I gaze on the picture that shows me his face.

The day passes on, till the shadows returning  
Inform my sad heart I have waited in vain,  
But the lamp of my love in the window is burning—  
Oh, surely, he'll see it, and come back again!

O, would we were dead, and the agony over!  
I can picture two souls meeting naked above—  
The lone one at home and the sad one a rover—  
Could meet unashamed in the light of their love.

The footsteps are many, tho' few that come my way,  
I sit and I weep while I patiently wait.  
What matters the tramp of the crowd on the highway,  
When his step will never more come to the gate?

## SOLITUDE FOR TWO.

'Tis sweet to rove upon the hills  
Among the trees and flowers,  
Or sit beside the laughing rills  
That glide near sunny bowers;  
To muse alone and gentle thought  
Delightedly to woo;  
But sweeter were that solitude  
If solitude for two.

To listen to the wild birds sing,  
To gaze upon the sky,  
Where giants of the forest fling  
Their long arms wild and high:  
Such things I know are very sweet  
In scenes we love to view,  
But O! their joy is more complete  
In solitude for two!

### SOLITUDE FOR TWO.

O, who would seek in loneliness  
A spirit pure and kind,  
Where solitude could but oppress,  
Or half awake the mind.  
  
When I would gaze on scenes like this  
Be happy, free and true,  
Let one fair being share my bliss  
In solitude for two.

## SWEET ROSE.

I saw thee 'mid the great and fair,  
    Of all the lovely loveliest,  
And none who looked upon thee there  
    But felt within thy presence blest,  
While I could only stand afar  
    And in thy smile my heart repose,  
Or murmur as unto a star,  
    The love I bore for thee, Sweet Rose.

But oft I thought—What can I do  
    To win a smile from those dear eyes?  
Of all who won I felt how few  
    Were worthy of so bright a prize;  
For I would do some glorious deed  
    That would my depth of love disclose,  
Then thou would'st in the effort read  
    The love I bore for thee, Sweet Rose.

SWEET ROSE.

Ah, still within my heart I hold  
The memory of that bright hour  
As tender hands thro' winter cold  
Protect the summer's fragile flow'r.  
It tells of golden moments gone,  
And promise in the future shows,  
So will I ever think upon  
The love I bore for thee, Sweet Rose.

## HERE WOULD I PLACE AS IN A SHRINE.

Here would I place, as in a shrine,  
The treasures of my heart,  
To make their richness still be thine  
When we are far apart;  
And bear sweet thoughts in after years,  
When tearful eyes will trace  
Recorded hopes, unwritten fears,  
That here have found a place.

But Oh! Sweet Rose, my gentle friend,  
It oft has been my lot  
To write, as now I write, and lend  
A name to be forgot.  
Thou, too, perhaps in after days,  
Wilt smile upon the page,  
Nor let so faint a spell the rays  
Of memory engage.

HERE WOULD I PLACE AS IN A SHRINE

So let it be—and in that cold  
Oblivion shall lie  
A tale that never yet was told  
By mortal lip or eye.  
And I will pray that thou'l be blest  
In friendship and in love;  
May every hope that fills thy breast  
A bright fruition prove!

Sweet dreams and gentle thoughts be thine,  
Glad days of happy hours,  
Like fairies, may the moments twine  
For thee their sweetest flow'rs;  
Be beautiful, and kind, and dear,  
Sweet Rose, as now thou art;  
So from the past thou wilt appear  
To one unhappy heart!

### A DREAM.

I was drifting away last night, in a dream,  
On the bosom broad of a mighty stream,  
The voice of the waters that bore me along  
    Seemed singing the dull refrain  
Of an old, familiar, sorrowful song  
    Soothing but telling of pain.  
My face was upturned to the moonless sky,  
And stars that silently rose on high  
    Seemed spirits I wooed in my youth,  
Ere the heart that worshipped the good and fair  
Had wakened from visions to find despair  
    Was wedded forever to truth.  
And still I was drifting along that shore—  
The hills and the valleys about it bore  
The semblance of places I'd seen before;

### A DREAM

Anon I discovered that silently  
Others were drifting away with me—  
Away to the ocean of mystery.  
  
I turned to look on the faces near  
And my soul was filled with a terrible fear,  
For they were the faces of beings dear,  
    Dearer to me than my life:  
Eyes that had lovingly looked on me  
Now fixed in a ghastly vacancy,  
And some had the look of a misery,  
    That ended its anguish in strife.  
  
And there was a form that before my dream  
I clasped to my bosom with joy supreme  
    Deeming it all mine own.  
Her long dark hair was against my cheek—  
I strove, O God! how I strove to speak—  
    But my lips were as carved in stone.  
She was robed in black, as the day we met,  
But her lips were pale, and her brow was wet  
    And dank with the river spray.

### A DREAM

Then methought I drifted upon the shore,  
    But I clung to the lovely prey,  
That the sullen waves of that river bore,  
    And strove to upbear it away.  
But she sank from my arms, like a weight of lead,  
Down in the stream of the graveless dead,  
    And I rose from my dream with a start,  
While memory sadly recalled to my view  
The dream of the night, and I knew it was true  
    By the load that I felt on my heart.

## THE ENCHANTED ISLE.

The drifting years have brought me to  
An island in the sea of time,  
With shores resembling naught I knew  
In any former age or clime.

In old romance I heard of it,  
Perchance I saw it in my dreams,  
As clouds that thro' the moonlight flit,  
Make phantoms of the passing beams.

However, 'tis a wondrous isle,  
With many a quaint and cloudy height  
That blushes ever at the smile  
Of morning through the veil of night.

## THE ENCHANTED ISLE

Along the valleys rivers glide  
Beneath the walls of castles grand,  
That are not homes for human pride,  
Nor were they built by human hand.

The marble steps and pillared walls  
Were planned in ages long ago,  
When old magicians in these halls  
Ruled genii from the world below.

But they have long since passed away  
And other beings take their place,  
Defying death and eke decay,  
Perennial in their youth and grace.

And there are gardens filled with flow'rs,  
Where palpitating odors move,  
And groves that cluster into bow'rs  
O'er leafy couches made for love.

### THE ENCHANTED ISLE

Ah, human hearts! how well it were,  
If ye could meet in place like this  
Whene'er your deepest fountains stir,  
Responsive to the clinging kiss.

And there are forests dark and high  
Of trees that tell the strangest tales  
That e'er were told beneath the sky,  
Or listened to by heedless gales.

The caverns deep, in mountains old,  
Are filled with treasures, rare and vast,  
And diamonds heaped on floors of gold  
By gnomes in the forgotten past.

A castle stands upon a hill,  
Whose lofty rooms contain a store  
Of volumes, where I learn at will  
The mysteries of magic lore.

### THE ENCHANTED ISLE

And there, upon a lofty seat,  
Is placed the Queen of all this isle —  
A sweet enchantress, at whose feet  
I rest, and live within her smile.

The sad misfortune of my birth  
Compels me oft to leave her side,  
Because I am a thing of earth,  
And to the sons of men allied.

For me she sings the sweetest songs,  
On me their happiness confers;  
Whatever else to earth belongs,  
The world of love and dreams is hers.

## THE SECRET OF THE SPRING.

Sweet and still the moonlight lies  
Along the path we know so well;  
Softly in the distance dies  
The echo of the evening bell.

Here I stand beside the spring,  
Placid in its deeps below—  
Empty heart to it I bring  
To fill with thoughts of long ago.

Gently dreaming here I think  
That I would find De Leon's quest;  
Bending o'er the spring to drink  
A fabled draught to make me blest.

### THE SECRET OF THE SPRING

Pain and sorrow now are fled,  
Joy and peace again are mine;  
Hopes, no longer with the dead,  
Return and make the world divine.

Fear of parting never more,  
Oh! fountain of eternal youth,  
Shall destroy the happy lore  
That comes to one who knows the truth.

Here I have the precious prize  
The Spaniard sought o'er land and sea;  
All the glowing hilltops rise  
Resplendent in their mystery.

Glorified the song of life  
Shall rise from vale to mountain peak,  
Men forgetting all their strife  
Will here a glad contentment seek.

### THE SECRET OF THE SPRING

Like an answer to their prayer  
This spot they'll hail as if t'were home,  
Earth and sky will shine more fair;  
No farther will they wish to roam.

Stricken hearts with sorrow bowed  
May here their burden haply bring,  
And, parting from the heedless crowd,  
Shall learn the Secret of the Spring.

## MALENE.

I looked on thee in former days,  
And thought thee wondrous fair;  
'Twas rapture then to fondly gaze,  
And feel thy presence there.  
Thine eyes possessed a happy beam,  
Thy cheeks a rosy glow,  
Thou wert as lovely as a dream,  
But that was long ago,  
                Malene,  
Yes, very long ago.

When, arm in arm upon the hill  
We strayed away so long,  
And never felt the time until  
We heard the night-bird's song.

MALENE

The lights upon the river shone  
That darkly rolled below,  
When I believed thee all mine own—  
But that was long ago.

Malene,

But that was long ago,

I look upon thee sadly now,  
Remembering that scene —  
The whisper of a broken vow—  
And think what might have been.

It was a boyish dream divine,

As such I let it go;

I take thy little hand in mine,

But not as long ago,

Malene,

No, not as long ago.

### I DRINK TO THEE.

I drink to thee!—The guests have gone;  
    The revelry is o'er,  
The chaplets, that were late upon  
    Their brows are on the floor,  
While ghostly shadows, one by one,  
    Come gliding thro' the door.  
But what are they to thee or me?  
My Beautiful, I drink to thee!

I drink to thee!—The crystal bowl  
    Is blushing to the rim;  
It is an emblem of my soul  
    That sparkles to the brim  
With love for thee, complete and whole,  
    Not, like these spectres, dim.  
But what are they to thee or me?  
My Beautiful, I drink to thee!

### I DRINK TO THEE

Aye, what are they—this ghostly crew—  
These silent memories  
Of things I felt, or saw, or knew,  
Perhaps beyond the seas,  
When hearts were loving, kind and true,  
Not shadows such as these?  
But what are they to thee or me?  
My Beautiful, I drink to thee!

I drink to thee! The empty glass  
Is shivered on the wall,  
And, one by one, the spectres pass  
Adown the dark'ning hall,  
And I am left alone, Alas!  
Alone and—that is all.  
But what are they to thee or me?  
My Beautiful, I ~~dry~~ <sup>dry</sup> to thee!

## RED WINE.

Pour the red wine about!  
Pour it out! Pour it out!  
Drink, sing, laugh, and shout  
With a will.

There's a storm in my soul,  
That will ever uproll,  
So quickly the bowl  
Let us fill!

The day had not fled  
With its living and dead,  
Like a moment of dread  
It was o'er;

RED WINE.

As the sleeper will start  
When he feels the knife dart  
Dividing his heart  
To the core

One terrible pain  
Of heart and of brain,  
A gasping in vain,  
And no more!

Close, close to my breast  
Her bosom was pressed—  
Oh! how I was blest  
In her arms!

Her breath was divine,  
I drank it like wine,  
Warm kisses were mine,  
Mine her charms!

RED WINE.

I looked in her eyes,  
They were luminous skies,  
Where her soul made replies  
To mine own.

In a tempest of love,  
That angels above  
Might envy to prove,  
We were one!

Then a power unseen  
Came quickly between,  
Like the icy cold sheen  
Of the north;

And up I arose  
To grapple my foes,  
My efforts were throes  
Little worth.

RED WINE.

On the wrack of the storm  
I saw her white form  
Out oceanward torn,  
                        Like a breath;

Dim ghosts all in white  
Fast followed her flight,  
Through terror and night,  
                        Unto death.

## THE BALLAD OF GREGORIE.

“O, I have now an argosy, a-sailing on the sea,  
All richly laden with the spice and gold of Arabie,  
But I fear it will be taken by some Turkish pirate  
bold,  
Who will rob me of my spices and my precious store  
of gold.

“O, would that I were young again on board the  
*Golden Fleece*,  
With bowline taut and shotted guns among the Isles  
of Greece;  
I’d teach that cruel pirate what I taught him once  
before,  
When I burned his galleys on the sea, and drove his  
men ashore.

### THE BALLAD OF GREGORIE.

“But I will give a thousand crowns to him who will  
set sail,  
And bring my argosy to port—my word shall never  
fail,  
And he shall share my land with me, and wed my  
daughter fair;  
And, when I die, he’ll take my place and be my son  
and heir.”

Then up spoke Gregorie, who came from Venice in  
the sea,  
“Tell off two score stout mariners to sail along  
with me,  
And I will seek the pirate out, and drive him from  
the main,  
And bring your argosy to port, or ne’er come back  
again.”

The maiden loved brave Gregorie, and he to her was  
true,  
While soon his vessel put to sea and with a daring  
crew.

THE BALLAD OF GREGORIE.

He met the pirate, gave him chase, and wrecked him  
on the strand;

Then brought the argosy to port, and won the  
maiden's hand.

Now all ye sailors bold and free who plow the  
stormy wave,

If ye would win a lady's love be ready, true and  
brave.

Good fortune then will smile on you, and when the  
Turk's o'erthrown,

You'll live in peace and plenty on an island all your  
own.

### COME DEAREST COME.

Come, dearest, come to a land across the sea:  
Come, dearest, come to the West along with me:  
I'll show you a land where the mayflower grows  
Along with the thistle, the shamrock, and rose.

I have a cabin by a wild mountain stream,  
A lake in the woods where the long shadows dream,  
And the wild flowers bloom, and the wild birds sing,  
Where in the forest land I reign as a king.

O, give me your word, Love; O, give me your hand,  
And you shall be queen of that beautiful land,  
The oak, and the pine, and the sweet maple tree  
Are all growing green in the land of the free.

COME DEAREST COME.

The north star is high, and the south star is low,  
The anchor's a-trip, and aboard I must go,  
Then come with your true lover over the wave—  
Be brave as the bride of the free should be brave.

O, fly from the city of folly and crime,  
Come to where Nature is still in her prime,  
Come, dearest, come to a land across the sea,  
Come, dearest, come to the West along with me.

## A FINE SUMMER MORNING.

I had a full cousin, called Arthur Macnide,  
And as we went roaming down by the sea side,  
All nature was smiling as glad as a bride,  
It was of a fine summer morning.

We met with a Sergeant in uniform fine,  
A smart little drummer, all braiding and shine,  
Quite ready to march at the head of the line  
With his rowdy-dow-dow in the morning.

With cap on three hairs, swagger stick in his hand,  
The full-chested Sergeant looked noble and grand,  
Just like he was giving the word of command,  
“Attention!” to squads in the morning.

#### A FINE SUMMER MORNING.

He said "My fine fellow, if you'd like to 'list.  
A shilling at once I will slap in your fist;  
It's an opportunity not to be miss'd  
Out here of a fine summer morning.

"We'll dress you up splendid in scarlet and blue,  
With height of good living in boiled, roast, and stew;  
The girls will run after you, loving and true,  
As you march thro' the town in the morning."

The Sergeant had ribbons that flew from his cap—  
O, he was an elegant, rollicking chap—  
But what he was saying I knew was clap-trap,  
As I thought to myself on that morning.

Said I:—"You're a gentleman gallant and gay,  
But I don't think I'll 'list in the army to-day.  
And I've a suspicion that all that you say  
Is humbug and gammon this morning.

### A FINE SUMMER MORNING.

"Then as for your bragging about your fine clothes,  
They are not your own, Sir, as I do suppose,  
And you dare not sell them, no, not for your nose,  
If you did you'd be flogged in the morning.

Then, as for your grub and your cooking so fine,  
"I know how a soldier gets fed in the line,  
On a bit of bull beef you're contented to dine,  
And sup your burgoo in the morning.

"And as for the girls that are loving and true,  
I have one already, and no thanks to you;  
If I should enlist, Sergeant, what would she do  
Left alone on a fine summer morning?

So drummer go on with your rowdy-dow-dow;  
"And I'll stay at home with my hand on the plow;  
I will fight when I'm needed but cannot 'list now—  
So I bid you a very good morning."

## THE RUINED INN.

Beside the highway stands a ruined inn,  
Luxuriant moss has spread its roof all o'er;  
No voice is heard, no footstep makes a din;  
The grass is waving at the open door.  
Winds whistle freely thro' the broken panes—  
A ghostly echo of forgotten strains.

The cheerful hearth that once was used to throw  
Its light and warmth thro' every friendly room,  
And cast its gleam far out on drifting snow,  
Is bare and vacant as a rifled tomb.  
Grim desolation broods about the spot,  
With mildew odors, like sepulchral rot.

Yet I remember in the bygone years,\*  
When Weller's four-horse, yellow equipage  
Came whirling from Toronto, 'mid the cheers  
Of villagers who came to meet the stage.

### THE RUINED INN.

No gayer place than this could then be found  
For many miles the country side around.

Old Amos and his pretty daughter Kate  
Then ruled benignant over bar and board.  
O! how I loved her, O! how I did hate  
The man who married her whom I adored.  
How strange and far away it all now seems  
That time of sunrise and of boyish dreams.

---

\*Dr. George Murray says this sounds rather commonplace, but to the boy who saw it then, and who looks back on it now through a vista of fifty years, it was an inspiring sight. In those days, before the era of railways, Weller's stage-coaches were the principal means of travel from Kingston to Hamilton and farther west. My father used to relate how, after paying his fare, a passenger would have to walk most of the way and carry a handspike to pry the coach-wheels out of the mud.

## THE VESPER CHIME.

There is a spirit comes to me  
    Each day at evening time,  
When shadows gather on the sea,  
    And sounds the vesper chime.  
Then sweetly on my troubled mind  
    It pours a soothing balm—  
Then flies my sorrow, and I find  
    My soul is glad and calm.

Then good and happy thoughts arise  
    While sinks my load of care,  
And I behold the loving eyes  
    Of spirits pure and fair.  
Such as in former days I knew  
    And in a dearer land,  
Ere sorrow o'er my spirit threw  
    The shadow of its hand.

### THE VESPER CHIME.

And oft I hear the whispering  
    Of voices in my ear,  
And often, too, I hear them sing  
    A song none else may hear.  
Still, gentle spirit, come to me  
    Each day at evening time,  
When shadows gather on the sea,  
    And sounds the vesper chime.

## FILL HIGH THE BOWL.

“Fill high the bowl!” I’ve heard the song  
At midnight when the fun was high,  
And madly rose the drunken throng  
To drink the toast befittingly.  
And round about  
The revel rout  
Proclaimed the reign of devilry.

“Fill high the bowl!” they sang and spoke,  
Till song and word had failed to tell  
How madden’d souls, from reason broke,  
Can emulate the scenes of hell;  
And, rushing out,  
The revel rout  
Insulted night with oath and yell.

FILL HIGH THE BOWL.

“Dash down the bowl!” I stood beside  
The grave of peace and hope, and there  
I saw a spectre rise and glide  
Along the pathway dark and bare;  
No song, or shout  
Of revel rout  
Came from the valley of despair.

## FREEMASONRY.\*

As through the dreary wilderness  
The chosen people bore,  
In danger, exile and distress,  
The ark of God; and o'er  
Their path an awful presence rose,  
Alike in labor and repose,  
Eternally before—

So through the wilderness of time  
Through ages long and dark,  
Is borne in majesty sublime  
Our sacred, mystic ark;  
And though that awful Presence may  
Not meet our gaze by night and day,  
Our souls retain its mark.

---

\*Dedicated to the Master, Wardens and Brethren of Dalhousie Lodge, Ottawa, 1868.

## FREEMASONRY.

When rash and cruel foes assailed  
With blind and furious hate,  
The Sacred Order still prevailed  
More gloriously great;  
And round its mystic symbols stand  
The good and wise of ev'ry land  
Immovable as fate.

And, like to them, within our hearts  
We keep the unrevealed;  
As God in earth's most secret parts  
Most precious things concealed.  
For he who seeks a lofty prize  
Must learn to labor and be wise,  
And never faint nor yield.

The work your hands have done is small  
To what must yet be done,  
Ere ye shall hear the Master's call  
Beyond the rising sun.

## FREEMASONRY.

The star which erst afforded light  
Must sink at last in endless night—  
Its final cycle run.

But o'er the tomb transgression made  
The evergreen shall grow;  
For those who rest beneath its shade  
Another star will glow.  
In Heaven's eastern portal grand  
The Master Architect shall stand,  
All worthy craftsmen know.

The temple then will be complete,  
The labor all be o'er;  
And the Great Lodge on high will meet,  
To close not evermore,  
Within the city which the Seer  
At Patmos saw in Heaven appear,  
Unseen by man before.

## FREEMASONRY.

Then from the south, and east, and west,  
The toilers shall repair  
To find an everlasting rest  
From grief, and pain, and care,  
With wisdom, strength and beauty crown'd  
Immortal as the love profound,  
Which will unite them there.

LINES.

RECITED AT A MASONIC BANQUET.

From a plan by the wisest of Sages  
Was built a magnificent arch  
Over a path where, for ages,  
Multitudes silently march.  
They come from the valleys of sorrow,  
And cities that are of the past,  
They are seeking a glorious morrow,  
Their shadows before them are cast.

They seek a city far away—  
A city on a hill—  
The weary footsteps may not stay,  
Nor toiling hands be still;  
For they all faithfully obey  
The Master's word and will.

LINES.

Each one among that multitude,  
With hope, though oft in tears,  
Has toiled in quarries strange and rude  
For many weary years.  
  
But now each one whose work is done,  
With liberated hands,  
Ascends the hill where brightly still  
The Holy City stands,  
To which is brought the ashlar wrought  
In many distant lands.

And so each day the fabric grows  
More beautiful and high,  
Beneath the Master Architect—  
The all beholding eye.  
  
So let each one perform his share,  
Brothers who labor all,  
That perfect ashlar, we may bear  
A place in that high wall.

## OFF CAPE SANTO GARCIA.

O Sea! thy waves are cold and dark,  
Thy voice is hoarse and wild,  
And thou dost toss my little bark  
On which this morn you smiled.  
Yes, thou didst sparkle gay and smile,  
As if beneath thy waves  
There lay no victims to thy guile  
In deep and tearless graves.

But yet, O Sea! I knew that thou  
Wert treacherous before  
I wrinkled thy inviting brow  
With my reluctant oar.  
I called thee no endearing name,  
Nor praised thee with my lyre,  
For well I knew if thou wert tame  
'Twas but with smothered ire.

OFF CAPE SANTO GARCIA.

Then toss, O haughty Sea! thy crest,  
I little reck or care—  
I'll slumber calmly on thy breast  
And dream securely there.  
In love I never trusted thee,  
Although my life I lend,  
For thou art false, O angry Sea!  
But not a faithless friend.

## THE MOONLIGHT STORM.

A lovely night! Serenely clear the sky  
Spreads its broad arch of blue filled by the light  
Of the wan moon which, floating far on high,  
Looks calmly down—the silent queen of night.  
The sportive zephyrs, kissing in their flight  
Thy pure white brow, dear Mary, seem to sigh  
A prayer of love, and linger with delight  
Around our bower when thy dear form is nigh,  
As if they fain would bear thee with them as they fly.

But see, my love, upon the fancied bound  
Where earth and sky are met, a gloomy cloud  
Ascending slowly until far around  
Lies 'neath the shadow of the stormy shroud.  
Yon sheet of flame, how grand, how wildly proud,

### THE MOONLIGHT STORM.

It clove the blackness with a livid tongue.

And now the thunders hoarsely roar aloud,  
Still wilder are the forkèd lightnings flung,  
Which seem to madly sport the distant hills among.

See raised on high, like a triumphal arch  
Based on the mountains that o'erlook the vale,  
A spirit rainbow gleaming o'er the march  
Of elemental armies, while the gale,  
Eager the woods and mountains to assail,  
Bears them right onward on his rushing wings,  
Each flying cohort clad in cloudy mail  
With an exultant swiftness wildly sings,  
While chaos black behind the whole its shadow flings.

Still the sweet moon upon us sadly pours  
Her light as yet unshaded by the gloom  
Of yonder cloud from whose black centre roars  
The living thunder as from out its womb  
Springs each wild flash with every deaf'ning boom.

### THE MOONLIGHT STORM.

The hissing deluge comes. Where shalt thou fly,  
My frightened dove, to 'scape the coming doom?  
No shelter! none! Come to this bosom, I  
Will shield my own dear love from heaven's angry  
sky!

Peal, ye wild thunders! Leap ye lightnings down!  
Ye wrathy elements your force combine,  
Till trembling earth lies prone beneath your frown.  
I reck not for your wrath while Mary's mine!  
O! let me stand like yonder riven pine  
Round whose bare head the lurid lightnings flame,  
And 'bout its arms, like fiery serpents, twine—  
Let me a part of this wild storm exclaim,  
For I'm akin to it—our spirits are the same.

## UNITA ITALIA.\*

'Twas rich, red wine that our fathers quaffed  
    By the Arno's summer flood,  
And long they drank and loud they laughed  
    Like us—and our swords drink blood.  
"Tis a glorious draught for it comes from out  
    The veins of a tyrant foe;  
Then pass the mantling cup about  
    And let the red life flow.  
        The toast shall be  
        Among the free—  
        "Union, Love and Liberty!"

---

\*This is a free rendering into English of a popular Italian patriotic song, which had great vogue when I was up the Mediterranean in 1860, and Garibaldi was carrying all before him in Italy. A few years afterwards I met him in Malta, when he was on his way to England.

UNITA ITALIA.

Our fathers fought in the ancient days  
For their gold, or faith, or fame,  
But their children have no need of bays  
Till they wipe away their shame.  
Our swords shall drink of the cup of life,  
And the draught will be a flood  
To bear from our land the wrecks of strife  
And the footprints stained with blood.

The toast shall be  
“To Italy,  
Union, Love and Liberty!”

## CANADA OUR HOME.

The skies are fair that beam above  
Far lands of fame and song,  
Where eyes that look the sweetest love  
In sunny valleys throng.  
But Oh! give me the forest hills  
Where happy I may roam,  
Where every pure affection thrills  
In Canada our home.

The annals of our native land  
May be but rough and brief,  
But there is many a fearless hand  
To guard the maple leaf.  
Let danger threaten when it will,  
We'll meet whate'er may come,  
Remaining firm and faithful still  
To Canada our home.

CANADA OUR HOME.

The mountains, woods, and torrents wild,  
Where native freedom dwells,  
Have charms that to the forest child  
No other land excels.  
Oh! for the joyful wind that flies  
Beneath the leafy dome  
By lakes that beam like beauty's eyes  
In Canada our home.

Let other nations boast the fame  
Of hero and of sage—  
What is their glory but a name  
Upon a blotted page?  
Behold a land from tyrants pure  
As wild Atlantic's foam,  
Where love and beauty dwell secure  
In Canada our home.

Young giant of the North and West!  
The nations hail thy birth,  
Thine heritage is of the best  
That ere was claimed on earth.

CANADA OUR HOME.

Firm as thy hills, bright as thy streams,  
Thy glory shall become,  
And realize hope's grandest dreams  
Of Canada our home.

## CANADA.

Dear native land! thy wand'ring child  
Treads on thy shore again,  
And beautiful, and grand, and wild  
Thou art to-day as when  
Mine eyes beheld thee first, and caught  
From waving wood and rushing stream  
The shadow of a bright-eyed thought,  
The spirit of a dream.

Crowned with the glory of labor and love,  
Faith, Loyalty, Virtue and Truth,  
O Land! let the birth of thy mightiness prove  
All the beauty and promise of youth!  
In thee no slaves nor despots dwell  
To curse the passing hour  
By deeds that to the future tell  
Of misery and power.

---

\* Written, July 1st, 1867, the first Dominion Day.

CANADA.

But, bound by love, thy children stand  
With no dark thoughts between,  
A noble, free and happy band,  
For Country and for Queen.  
Let their voices rise  
With their beaming eyes,  
For the Star of Empire glows  
O'er the northern arch  
Where the giants march,  
Whom none can delay or oppose.

A new Atlantis for the world,  
O Canada! thou art;  
The flag thy children have unfurled  
Is dear to every heart.  
Long like our old flag, may it wave—  
That which for aye shall be  
The symbol of the true and brave,  
The banner of the Free!

## THE WEARING OF THE GREEN.

(New version.)

Oh, Patrick dear, and did you hear,  
The news that's going round?  
The shamrock is no more forbid  
To grow on Irish ground.  
But, raised with honor and renown,  
By order of the Queen,  
The army and the navy now  
Are wearing of the green.

So now we'll wear the green, my dear,  
So now we'll wear the green;  
For Erin grand we'll proudly stand,  
And wear the living green.

### THE WEARING OF THE GREEN.

I met with General Buller,  
And He took me by the hand,  
Saying—"How are these for heroes bold,  
Who come from Erin's land?  
A telegram was handed me  
This morning, from the Queen—  
She says—"They've won my heart, and made,  
Me proud to wear the green.' "

So now we'll wear the green, my dear,  
So now we'll wear the green;  
For Erin grand we'll proudly stand,  
And wear the living green.

And ever on St. Patrick's Day,  
Wherever to the skies,  
Triumphant for liberty,  
The flag of Britain flies,  
There shall the harp and shamrock fly—  
By all the nations seen  
To Irish valor Britain owes  
The wearing of the green!

### THE WEARING OF THE GREEN.

So now we'll wear the green, my dear,  
So now we'll wear the green;  
For Erin grand we'll proudly stand,  
And wear the living green.

Not only did they beat the Dutch  
Upon the wild Karroo,  
But they have conquered English hearts  
With courage high and true.  
Then evermore when British men  
Shall sing "God Save the Queen,"  
They'll not forget Old Ireland, and  
The wearing of the green.'

So now we'll wear the green, my dear,  
So now we'll wear the green;  
For Erin grand we'll proudly stand,  
And wear the living green.

## ABERCROMBIE'S GRAVE.\*

No drooping willow weeps,  
Where Abercrombie sleeps  
In the bastion that towers above the sea,  
Where the billows evermore  
Tell the echoes on the shore  
Of him whose name was one with victory.

Near Abercrombie's grave,  
Looking down across the wave,  
Is a sleepless, giant, iron sentinel

---

\*Sir Ralph Abercrombie's remains are buried in the angle of one of the bastions of the Castle of St. Elmo at Malta. On a marble slab inserted in the opening of the vault is a long inscription in Latin, giving the main incidents of his career. A 110 pounder gun was mounted directly over the tomb when the writer visited the spot in 1863, and, from the cavalier of the work above, floated the British Ensign.

ABERCROMBIE'S GRAVE.

Crouching grim and silent there,  
Like a lion in his lair,  
The ashes of the hero guarding well.

When Abercrombie died,  
Old England o'er the tide,  
Sent this sentinel to guard his sacred tomb  
They are brothers—he who sleeps  
And the giant one who keeps,  
Endless vigil in the sunshine and the gloom.

Over Abercrombie's head  
Floats a banner blazoned red,  
Victorious over sea and over land,  
And the foe had need be brave,  
Who on Abercrombie's grave  
Would dare to lay a desecrating hand.

## MEN OF THE NORTH.

Conquering nations all come from the north,  
Fighters and lovers they ever go forth.  
On land or on ocean of them it is said—  
Odin and Thor are not sleeping nor dead.  
Give them a welcome befitting the brave—  
Sons of the Empire from over the wave.  
Blue-eyed, tawny-bearded, broad-shouldered, tall;  
Here come the Northmen to answer the call.

Who can deny them?

Who dare defy them?

Men of the North! You are welcome to all.

With strong engine stroke and white wings out-spread,  
Over the ocean in khaki and red,  
From ends of the earth they come, as of yore,  
Strong as their fathers they spring to the shore.

MEN OF THE NORTH.

Warriors welcome from over the sea  
Sons of the Empire, peerless and free.  
Blue-eyed, tawny-bearded, broad-shouldered, tall;  
Here come the Northmen to answer the call.

Who can deny them?

Who dare defy them?

Men of the North! You are welcome to all.

Not in defiance, because they are strong—  
For freedom and justice, for right over wrong;  
To show in the face of an envious world  
That Britons are one when their flag is unfurled.  
They come not for conquest, but boldly to save—  
Canadian Northmen from over the wave.

Blue-eyed, tawny-bearded, broad-shouldered, tall;  
Here come the Northmen to answer the call.

Who can deny them?

Who dare defy them?

Men of the North! You are welcome to all.

## THE HARP.

This harp was all my father gave  
To me, before he found a grave  
Upon a stranger's land.

"My boy," he said, "the harp you hold  
Was struck by many minstrels old,  
By many heroes brave and bold,  
With an unfaltering hand.

"Your sires, the chieftains of Odrone,\*  
Familiar were with every tone  
Of wassail, love and fray.

Some of its strings are wrought of gold,  
And some of silver's purest mould,  
And some of iron hard and cold,  
And some are torn away.

---

\*See Keating's History of Ireland, for an account of the O'Ryan's, of Odrone.

### THE HARP.

“If virtue high you wish to sing  
Then fearless strike the golden string,  
    By that it oft was stirr’d;  
And if with love your bosom swell  
The silver chord will answer well,  
    And strains of deeper fervor tell  
        Than ever maiden heard.

“But if of freedom’s fight your song,  
Then strike the iron loud and long,  
    Thus oft ’twas heard before.  
The broken strings, once fair and bright,  
Are like to those who fell in fight,  
    When battling for a country’s right  
        Their strength could not restore.”

## MORNING.

O'er the hills the dawn is breaking;  
The joyous night has found an end;  
Rosy sunbeams, brightly streaking  
Flying shadows, sweetly blend.  
But let us hail her wit'n a song  
For joy is short, and labor long.

Hi! old Sol! Is that your head, Sir?  
I rather think you're up too soon—  
You're getting old, go back to bed, Sir;  
We'd sooner have your wife the moon.  
But let us hail him with a song,  
For joy is short, and labor long.

Fill your glass, this is parting,  
Day has come, and we must go;  
Though the tear of grief be starting,  
We will meet again, you know.  
Then hail the morning with a song:  
We've had our fun—so come along.

## NORTHERN LIGHTS.

Behind a mighty Monarch's throne  
That stands by the northern pole,  
Where ceaselessly the sun has shone,  
Where the freezing billows roll,  
Where history since earth was young,  
Was never told by mortal tongue  
Or known to a human soul;

A bannered light is cast on high  
On many million spears,  
Lifting far up into the sky  
The trophied sheen of years,  
And storms sweep up from a shoreless sea  
Where that Monarch holds high revelry  
With his star-crown'd mountain peers.

### NORTHERN LIGHTS.

Balefully the unsettling sun,  
Shines o'er that Monarch's head,  
While many wrecks of ships undone,  
Peopled with frozen dead,  
Go sailing past through the spectral light—  
Pale ghost of a day that has no night—  
In that lifeless sea of dread.

Far, far away from balmy isles  
Those ships and men must roam,  
They ne'er shall answer welcome smiles,  
Awaiting them at home;  
While round that northern pole they sail  
Before the breath of a ceaseless gale  
In a winding sheet of foam.

And round and round the pole they go.  
A weird and ghostly fleet,  
The shrieking winds around them blow  
The undissolving sleet.

### NORTHERN LIGHTS.

The Pilot stands beside the wheel  
The Look-out, clad in ice, like steel,  
Keeps his viewless, frozen seat.

Sad watchers wait in distant lands  
Each unreturning barque:  
Draw not the curtain, trembling hands,  
Nor peer into the dark,  
For the Northern King has bound them fast  
In his icy sea—their keels have pass'd  
O'er ocean nor left a mark.

But when upon the summer sky  
Ye see the arching light,  
And view the ships go sailing by,  
Like arks of hope and might,  
O! pray for them who are far at sea  
And the lost ones may return to ye  
Like angels, in dreams by night.

## THE UNRETURNING.

Drifting, drifting, drifting  
Down a mighty river  
Where, the moonbeams, rifting  
Craggy cloud-isles quiver  
On the stream, like a dream,  
Dark before and after,  
Flies a bark through the dark  
Whither winds may waft her.  
From the mist-encircled shore,  
As she glides along,  
Voices come that never more  
Will blend in earthly song.

Stay, O stay another day!  
Why depart, O ship, so soon?  
Wait the hopeful morning ray,  
Nor in darkness steal away  
'Neath the storm-foreboding moon.

THE UNRETURNING.

Many of our hopes thou bearest,  
Many of our fears thou sharest,  
And the dangers that thou darest  
    On the ocean sailing,  
Are to us forsaken, sorrow  
For our souls of the to-morrow  
Can no consolation borrow—  
    Tears are unavailing.

Stay! O, stay the morning light—  
    Ere our loved ones vanish  
Swiftly, swiftly from our sight  
Into silence, gloom and night.  
    Why so glad to banish  
All that unto us are dearest,  
All that unto us are nearest?  
    Night of nights that is the drearest  
    For the souls departing.  
While upon the water rocking  
Evil spirits round thee flocking,  
Are with antic gestures mocking  
    Thy unhappy starting.

### THE UNRETURNING.

Stay, O ship! the rising sun.

Let us see the faces  
Of the ones belov'd undone.  
Of the voyage thou'st begun  
Leave us some sad traces;  
For there is no port for thee  
This side of eternity  
And the undiscovered sea  
Whither thou art tending  
Gives no hope of thy returning;  
Though our hearts with love are burning  
And, amid despairing, yearning  
For a love unending!"

Gloriously, gloriously  
The sun shone on the river,  
And its glad beams blending  
On the waters quiver.  
Like a dream from the stream  
The ship had long departed;  
From the shore came no more  
Songs of the broken hearted.

## THE NIGHT BIRD.

Down where the cedars are bending,  
Down by the side of the river,  
Down where the waters are wending  
Their way to the ocean forever,  
One night I heard  
A lonely bird  
Singing, Oh! so sadly singing.  
There was such pain  
In its wild strain,  
So plaintive and so ringing  
I paused to listen and methought  
The sounds were into meaning wrought,  
While faint and low  
As sobs of woe,  
The lone bird kept repeating  
The strange refrain  
Of its wild strain,

### THE NIGHT BIRD.

Where crowded shadows meeting  
Made that solitary grove  
Like to a grave of love.

“Rolled, rolled in the greedy mould  
That taketh and nothing giveth,  
Where, where in a dumb despair  
No hope of the future liveth,  
Lies, lies with o'ershaded eyes,  
My love with her love unspoken,  
While, while thro' a world of guile  
I wander alone, heart-broken.  
Strong, strong is the giant wrong,  
And he mates with a demon cruel;  
Higher, higher be buildeth a fire,  
And human hearts are the fuel.

“Bright, bright in the morning light  
Beauty and love came flying.  
Laid, laid in deathly shade,  
Ere eve they were crushed and dying.

THE NIGHT BIRD.

Woe! woe! against all below  
That liveth and loveth is written.  
Life, life is a bitter strife  
Where the best are the soonest smitten.  
Here, here on this hapless sphere,  
All that are beautiful perish.  
Hope, hope hath no wider scope  
Than faint recollections we cherish.  
Earth, earth had its hour of mirth,  
But woe is an old, old story.  
Fast, fast in the voiceless past  
Fleeth our dreams of glory!"

"Oh, hush! unhappy thing," I cried,  
"Tho' fate has left thee naught beside,  
Hast thou not faith and duty?  
What matters the loss of a toy of clay,  
The perishing birth of a perishing day,  
Tho' it were a thing of beauty?  
Can death destroy  
The lasting joy  
That springs from hope immortal?

THE NIGHT BIRD.

Can grieving bring  
Thee back the thing  
That has fled beyond life's portal?  
Still, still from the grave you fill  
Cometh a voice supernal—  
Trust, trust in God! He is just,  
And sorrow is not eternal."

## THE VAGABOND.

But yesterday I saw a ragged wight  
Looking so happy and so free from care;  
He sunned himself with such a huge delight,  
And laughed so loud he made the people stare.  
I envied the poor wretch his frolic glee,  
And watched him long to note a hidden pain,  
But not a lurking trouble could I see,  
For misery on him seemed cast in vain.  
I wondered at the fellow laughing out  
At his own vagrant fancies, loud and long.  
I asked him why he was so glad—a shout  
He raised, and answered me with this wild song:—

“O, I am glad because I have  
No wife, no friends, no home!  
The winds go by less free than I,  
Where'er I wish to roam.

### THE VAGABOND.

My home is on the wide, wide world,  
Where'er I chance to be,  
When the sun goes down, o'er waste or town,  
'Tis all the same to me.

"I roll me in my ragged cloak  
Upon my mother Earth—  
Kind I ween has that mother been  
Who cradled me since birth.  
I would not teach my thoughts to cling  
Round any single place,  
Nor try to twine a wreath divine  
For fairest maiden's face.

"For the brightest scene will alter,  
The fairest face grow old,  
But Nature true is ever new,  
The more we her behold.  
I have no friend, nor care for one,  
While winds and waves are free,  
While eyes of love in skies above  
Look smilingly on me.

### THE VAGABOND.

“I love the jolly, rolling world,  
    Find joy in everything:  
I have no wealth but life and health,  
    And so I laugh and sing.  
When parts Aurora’s misty veil  
    That wraps her eastern bed  
And lifts her charms from Tithon’s arms  
    Her smiles o’er waters spread,

“I greet her with a joyful song,  
    I haste o’er dewy hills  
Where skylarks wing their flight, and sing  
    Till heaven with music thrills.  
At noonday glare I lie me down  
    In groves where streamlets glide,  
And my sleep teems with glorious dreams  
    No mortal dreams beside.

“Lord of that land of dreams am I,  
    There nothing vile intrudes—  
Spirits of air and light are there  
    In countless multitudes.

### THE VAGABOND.

Aerial strains of melody  
They sing my couch around,  
For me they pour the hidden lore  
Of mysteries profound.

"When evening 'breeze is whispering,  
Like sighs of lovelorn maid,  
And weary car of Phoebus far  
Has sunk in western shade,  
By guiding light of Hesperus  
I wait the rising moon,  
While winds of night in gusty flight  
Chant an unearthly tune.

"Ghosts of the past arise around—  
Wild are the tales they tell—  
Some darkly glare, some are fair,  
Beautiful! terrible!"

## SUMMER HAS DIED.

'Twas a lingering death that the Summer died,  
As it turned and returned again,  
As the lover returns to the loved one's side,  
Renewing his rapture and pain.

Ah! beautiful Summer! Beautiful dead!  
As the leaves that blow over thy tomb,  
Recall the sad thought of the glory that's fled,  
Sere memory lives through the gloom.

The gloom that o'ershadows a dream of the past  
O, say! was it all but a dream?  
Was the bread of my heart so wantonly cast  
On a never returning stream?

SUMMER HAS DIED.

I built up a temple of hope in thy skies,  
For an idol of beauty and grace,  
But, swift as the rift of the summer cloud flies,  
It has vanished—dissolved into space.

While empty and cold as a newly made grave  
Is the place where my temple arose,  
And the blood in my heart, like the ocean wave,  
Still remorselessly ebbs and flows.

O, Summer! I've turned and returned like thee,  
Recalling the glimpses of youth,  
But to glean in the harvest of misery  
An alien gleaning like Ruth.

O, Summer! dead Summer! you came to my heart  
A hopeful and beautiful bride,  
But strangely and coldly I see thee depart.  
Like a ghost that haunted my side.

SUMMER HAS DIED.

The leaves are all fallen, the flowers are dead,  
The wind has a dirge in its tone,  
And visions that came with the Summer have fled  
And left me with Winter alone.

.But Winter is welcome, its dreariest day  
Has hope of a Summer in store;  
As snow on the hillside grief passeth away,  
And the mourner will mourn nevermore.

## THE LOST SPIRIT.

Now in the solitude of night  
    Oh! tell to me my soul:  
Why has that spirit taken flight,  
Who was to thee thy one delight  
    Above the world's control.

She came to thee in early life  
    A spirit all divine,  
And often in the headlong strife,  
Where grief, and pain, and death were rife,  
    Her peace was ever thine.

Upon the tempest-ridden sea  
    When danger round thee rose,  
She seemed to beckon unto thee  
From life to immortality,  
    From labor to repose.

### THE LOST SPIRIT.

Among the summer islands where  
Bright flowers perennial bloom,  
She sat beside thee, ever fair,  
And with her songs dispell'd the care  
That wrapt thee oft in gloom.

But, Oh! my soul, she now has fled  
To some more worthy breast;  
The happy light her presence shed  
Now gathers round a dearer head  
Than thine, O! thing unblest!

She was so dear—so very dear—  
When she was all thine own,  
That now, when she no more is near,  
No ruin could be half so drear  
As thou, poor soul, alone!

Shall I again thro' summer isles,  
Or o'er the wintry sea,  
Or in the halls where beauty wiles,  
Where laughing phantoms kill with smiles,  
Go seek her out for thee?

THE LOST SPIRIT.

“Ah, no! thou wilt not find her so,”  
My lonely soul replies,  
“But if thou would’st the secret know,  
Upon some quiet moment go,  
And look in Mary’s eyes.”

## GOOD-BYE.

“Good-Bye:—” The whisper softly fell  
Through darkness of the night;  
It struck upon my soul a knell—  
Upon my heart a blight.  
While ever as we sped along  
The night wind seemed to sigh  
And, sadly murmuring, to say  
Again to me—“Good-bye;  
                            Good-bye:”  
A mocking spirit seemed to say  
Again to me—“Good-bye.”

Within my chamber, still and lone,  
I laid me down and slept,  
While fancy of that saddest tone  
Strange recollection kept.  
Through every wild, distorted dream,  
As distant murmurs die,

GOOD-BYE.

That low, sad whisper still would seem  
To say to me—"Good-bye."

Next morn before the joyous breeze  
My ship had left the shore,  
And, like to one who sadly sees  
What he may view no more,  
I looked upon the fading strand,  
Slow lessening to my eye,  
When with the wind from off the land  
The whisper came—"Good-bye;  
Good-bye!"  
Borne by the wind from off the land,  
The whisper came—"Good-bye."

Then years went by, and often through  
The storms of war I passed,  
One of the unrecorded few  
Whom death refused to blast;

GOOD-BYE.

But in the maddest moments, when  
Stark horror leaped on high,  
That mocking voice would shriek again,  
And still again—"Good-bye;  
                            Good-bye:"  
That mocking voice would shriek again,  
And still again—"Good-bye."

Once more I trod my native land,  
Sought each familiar place,  
And strove again with loving hand  
Lost beauties to retrace;  
Until one night upon a grave  
I sank and prayed to die,  
When from the mould a faint voice gave  
To me a last "Good-bye;  
                            Good-bye:"  
Silent at last within the grave  
For evermore—"Good-bye."

## ARMAGEDDON.

The world is growing weary of its emperors and  
kings.

Oh! weary, weary, weary of the tyranny that brings  
No respite to its wretchedness while high the an  
them rings,

And the Devil comes a-riding on the gale!

The People, Oh! the People, toiling in the field and  
mine,

To barter for a crust of bread the life that is divine,  
While robbers sit and gorge on blood, pretending  
it is wine,

And the Devil comes a-riding on the gale!

### ARMAGEDDON.

Religion is a mockery, all gods are dumb or dead,  
And all the world is worshipping the Golden Calf  
instead.

They've hung his neck with ribbons, put a garland  
on his head—

The Devil comes a-riding on the gale!

The Devil, but they don't believe in him, no more  
than God,

Although they feel the impress of his hoofs all  
golden-shod;

But in terror he is coming and with an iron rod—  
He's riding, Ho! he's riding on the gale!

The armies march; O, don't you hear the thunder  
of their tread?

The ships of war are sailing out into the sunset red.  
The plain of Armageddon will be carpeted with dead  
When the Devil comes a-riding on the gale.

ARMAGEDDON.

The emperor and millionaire, the beggar and the  
tramp,  
Will lie together underneath a blanket broad and  
damp;  
And over them the coming race will heedless build  
its camp,  
    The Devil having ridden on the gale.

## LOVE AND DEATH.

He, as I guess,  
Had gazed on nature's naked loveliness  
Actæon-like, and now he fled astray.  
—Shelley.

### I.

A shadow lies upon the earth—  
The sunshine is afar:  
If love dies here, then death is birth  
On some more happy star.  
Then twine the ivy round the urn,  
I wait the coming ray;  
For I to my dead love will turn,  
And hail my dying day.

LOVE AND DEATH.

II.

An ancient town by a river lay,  
The moonbeams shone on its turrets gray,  
Its gables quaint, its steeples high,  
Rising far in the quiet sky,  
Lifting the emblem cross among  
The mystical myriad stars that hung  
On the airy robe of the summer night,  
That clasped the earth as a lover might,  
When the storm of passion in sighs has died,  
Enfold in slumber his yielding bride.  
  
The moonbeams shone on the passing stream  
That caught, with a rippling laugh, the gleam  
Which seemed, like a silver cord, to glow  
Through a wonderful woof in the wave below.  
  
Old towers, with ivy and moss o'ergrown,  
Looked sullenly down where their images shone,  
Changing and flitting, like things in a dream—  
Phantoms unreal that tangible seem.  
  
Deserted the streets of that ancient town,  
Where the moonbeams steadily wander'd down,

## LOVE AND DEATH.

Where over the steps of the lordly hall  
The weeds, untrodden, grew rank and tall.  
The drawbridge was down at the open gate,  
Where shadowy sentinels linger late,  
And winds sobbed low thro' the crumbling arch,  
Where unwritten centuries silently march.

## III.

Cyril, a boy, went forth when first  
The sun from purple mountains burst.  
An old man gazed with prophetic eye,  
As he tenderly bade him a last good-bye,  
And said:—"When weary of wanderings,  
Mourning the loss of beautiful things  
You must know and love, you will backward fly  
To the ancient town, like me, to die.  
When hope has departed and fear has fled,  
And all of the loving and loved are dead,  
You will return to the ancient town  
To lay your life and your burden down.

### LOVE AND DEATH.

But you must love, and you must learn,  
And you must suffer, ere you return."

### IV.

Eternal Spring! Eternal Truth!  
Although our locks turn gray,  
We see the glory of our youth  
Reviving every day.  
Laughing and singing, with footstep springing,  
He went along;  
His spirit that day as the morn was gay,  
His gleesome song  
Rose on the air like the song of a bird—  
A song the sweetest that ever was heard—  
For hope was strong.

### V.

He drank in of Nature the glory and joy,  
And thought like a man, tho' he felt like a boy.  
Often he paused in the wind-shaken grove,  
Where wood-spirits whispered their mystical love.

## LOVE AND DEATH.

“I am careless, and happy, and free as they,”  
He cried as he bounded upon his way.  
“I can go where I will, and none shall say—  
There you must travel or here you must stay.  
Oh! It is happiness truly to be  
Free as the wind, as the wild bird, free!”

## VI.

Now by a fountain in a shady nook,  
The hidden parent of a laughing brook,  
That woos the blossoms of a thousand fields,  
Returning love the distant heaven yields,  
Cyril on mossy bank lay down, until  
The soft, low music of the flowing rill  
Mingling, as it passed along,  
With the wild-bird’s **loving song**,  
And the deep, sad symphonies—  
Whispers of the wind and trees—  
Gently wrapped his tired sense  
In the sleep of innocence.

LOVE AND DEATH.

VI.

He was most beautiful while there he slept,  
And the coy wind that o'er him softly swept  
Played with his curls, and kissing his pale brow  
Dropt odors round him. Timid as the vow  
A maiden breathes his breath stole from his lip,  
So sweet 'twould tempt the honey bee to sip,  
As in the natural grace of youth he lay,  
As fair a thing as e'er was formed of clay.  
The spirit of sweet dreams sat by him there,  
And wrapt his soul in visions wondrous fair.  
Was it the spirit of that lovely spot  
That haunted leafy shade and lonely grot,  
Who stole from out the thicket chanting low  
A sweet old song?—Ah, few on earth can know,  
Or on the tablets of remembrance trace  
So fair a form, so beautiful a face.

VIII.

A rustic maiden, but around her hung  
The nameless grace which sanctifies the young,

LOVE AND DEATH.

And beautiful, and good; for deep within  
The mystic volume of her heart no sin  
Was written, nor the marks of grief or rage,  
Record of sorrow, or down-folded page,  
Such as the wordly hide away, nor dare  
To scan, yet feel its haunting presence there.  
Awhile she stood in wide-eyed reverie

As some sweet thought her captive fancy led,  
Foreshadow of the future it might be,

Some jealous power had cast upon her head.  
Then she enclasped the robes that loosely clad  
Her youthful beauties, and with fingers glad  
Laid the soft glories of her bosom bare,  
Like a young bud that opens to the air  
Its blushing sweetness. Timidly and slow  
Her garments fell about her feet. Then Oh!  
Beyond conception beautiful and rare,  
She stood an angel or a goddess there—  
A thing to worship in the heavens above,  
To look upon, then perish, mad with love.  
And then her looped-up tresses she unroll'd,  
And round her fell a flashing veil of gold.

### LOVE AND DEATH.

Oh! not the Virgin Goddess when she stood  
Beneath the arches of the green old wood,  
Clad in immortal loveliness and grace,  
Longing impatient for the coming chase,  
Was fairer than the laughing, thoughtless maid  
Who by that stream her lovely form displayed.  
While in the stream she gambolled, tossing high  
The spray around her, Cyril with a sigh  
Awoke to hear the splashing of the rill  
And, looking forth between the leaves, a thrill  
Shook his faint soul, his panting heart stood still,  
And, like to one enchanted in old days,  
He lay entranced and could not choose but gaze.

### IX.

The wonderful woof that the sun-shadow weaves  
Was dancing in gold and in green thro' the leaves,  
And from the forest whispering  
There came a voice that seemed to sing  
Peace, love, and joy to everything.

LOVE AND DEATH.

X.

How sweet with one we love to dwell  
    Apart from every haunting care,  
To look in eyes that only tell  
    Of love's surrender beaming there;  
To dream, and wake to dream again  
    The same sweet vision o'er,  
Have all the spirit would attain,  
    And want for nothing more.

XI.

Is my love poison to the one I love,  
My prayers destruction even while they move  
In deep devotion, true and pure as day?  
Must my fond kisses steal the life away  
That I would gladly yield mine own to save?  
What have I done O Death! O greedy Grave!  
That you should rob me thus? There is I fear  
Within the circle of these arms some drear,  
Most deadly, and most potent charm to kill  
All that I love, against my heart and will.

LOVE AND DEATH.

XII.

Give me the cup, Old Wizard, I will drink  
Thy vaunted draught. Fear not—I will not shrink,  
Tho' it contained the dregs of deepest hell  
Condensed! Ay, let me clutch it—so—’tis well.  
Look here Old Man; I know not what you mean,  
And care as little. I have lived and seen  
Things that have made me reckless of thine art,  
So I will pour upon my burning heart  
This broth of thy decocting.—It is sweet  
And hath a subtle odor.—Oh! how fleet  
Descending shadows gather.—Here, Old Man!  
Thou plausible old villain! Give me back  
The fragment of my day! It groweth black,  
The sun has set. The moon and stars have fled.  
Can this be death?

## THE DEATH OF THE OLD YEAR.

Farewell, Old Year! thy latest sobbing breath  
Falls on my brow like whisperings of doom,  
Cold, cold and still thy agony of death  
Like one who perishes in winter gloom.

O! heavy is the burthen of thine age,  
Well mayst thou pant and stagger with the weight,  
Here, take with thee this darkly-blotted page,  
Filled with the record of a darker fate.

Sad broken hearts and severed ties are thine.  
Sin, sorrow, death—a tale of care and woe—  
With rifted gleams of glory that will shine  
In darkest moments on the faint and low.

### THE DEATH OF THE OLD YEAR.

Here is a soul-drawn picture of the past;  
I traced it fondly when my heart was young.  
O! colors bright, why did ye fade so fast!—  
Faint, mocking echo of a song I've sung!

Go! go, Old Year, such things may never more  
Tear from my heart the armor thou hast lent,  
Tho' floating faintly from a far-off shore,  
I hear a whisper with thy sighings blent.

Hush! hush! be still—the poor Old Year is dead!  
While, springing from his ashes, see arise  
A being lovely as a spirit led  
Fresh from the glow of God's own paradise.

It brings to me a scroll on which is writ  
No word or sign of all that yet may be;  
But o'er the page a shadow seems to flit—  
I vainly grasp at what I cannot see.

THE DEATH OF THE OLD YEAR.

I see a form—Oh, can it be of earth?  
With long dark hair and eyes of wondrous hue,  
But robed in black, like one who at the birth  
Of sorrow stood, and all its anguish knew.

So once again the long-deserted halls  
Of my dark heart are filling with a light  
Which softly on each buried treasure falls  
That long was hid by desolation's night.

Then hail, New Year! for in thy face I read  
Sweet hope and promises of future joy.  
Delusive beauty, can I—dare I heed  
What thou hast shown, perhaps but to destroy?

IN MEMORIAM HONORE MERCIER.

I.

O, true and gentle, kind and brave!  
Detractors now may stand aside,  
While we who loved thee, by thy grave  
Recall the virtues they denied.  
We knew thee in thy strength and pow'r,  
We knew thee when affliction came,  
And proudly at this solemn hour  
Shall vindicate thy worth and fame.

2.

Stand back! Let Faction hold its peace;  
We knew him as a man—a friend,  
Stand back! and let your slander cease;  
You had your triumph—gained your end.

IN MEMORIAM HONORE MERCIER.

But he is now beyond your hate,  
    But not beyond the love we bear;  
For love above all things is great,  
    While hate is parent of despair.

3.

He's far beyond your cruel rage,  
    This patriot by traitors sold;  
Most faithful in a faithless age,  
    A leader without guile or gold.  
In friendship ever firm and true,  
    In fortune's smile or frown the same.  
True heart that never falsehood knew!  
    Pure soul serene and free from blame!

4

Aye, free from blame! His fame will shine  
    Among the noblest of our land,  
Whose glory was their faith divine  
    In virtue and the helping hand.

IN MEMORIAM HONORE MERCIER.

Peace! Peace! O, let the great dead rest  
In silence! Tears and words are vain  
This land to which he gave his best  
May never see his like again.

### FRED PERRY.\*

At last, dear Fred, our task is done,  
And time has not been cheated;  
If we can find a publisher,  
The work will be completed.  
'Twill be to you a monument,  
Like that which stands at Verdun,—  
The record of a life well spent,  
A blessing and a guerdon.

---

These lines were composed on May 29, 1897, on completing the writing of "The Life and Times of Alfred Perry," a work on which I had been engaged with him for over a year. He intended to bring the book out, if he could find a publisher, but failing health and want of means prevented him.

ALFRED PERRY.

The generations yet to be—  
The coming race of sages—  
Will think with gratitude of thee,  
When studying its pages;  
And say—"Behold. there was a man  
Who knew all men as brothers,  
Who followed out the God-like plan  
Of doing good to others.

Deep, broad, and full his life appears,  
Like our own noble river;  
With all its days and all its years  
Replete with high endeavor.  
He strove for neither wealth nor fame,  
Nor yet for smiles of beauty,  
But all to him in fulness came,  
Who nobly did his duty."

Thus, dear old Fred, will future times  
Be still your friends and neighbors,  
As I woudl with imperfect rhymes  
Do justice to your labors.

ALFRED PERRY.

However, let me, as I can,  
    Declare no time can bury  
The mem'ry of a noble man—  
    Whose name was Alfred Perry.

## SUNSET ON GIBRALTAR.

"Tis sweet upon a summer eve to stand  
Upon dark Calpe's venerable height,  
And gaze upon the scene of sea and land,  
Which lies beneath thee in the soften'd light,  
When the bright sun in its descending flight  
Has clothed the Spanish hills in crimson glow,  
And the dark shades of fast-approaching night  
Enshroud the valleys that are hid below,  
**And** distant mountains far their lengthening shadows  
    throw.

Along the billows from Levantine seas  
Fantastic clouds upon the waters creep,  
The sweet, cool breathing of the evening breeze  
Brings strange, sad murmurs from the dark'ning  
    deep.

SUNSET ON GIBRALTAR.

From Afric's cloudy mountains, looming steep  
And boldly out against the south'rn sky,  
Where weary warriors their watching keep,\*  
The mellow noises often echo by,  
Like to the sighs of those who there in battle die.

Dim grow the sails that swiftly course along,  
Seeking the distant ocean's troubled breast.  
Loud boom the surges, rising hoarse and strong,  
Then moaning softly as if soothed to rest.  
The light grows fainter now along the west,  
The bugles sound the signal of retreat,  
And I must answer to the stern behest,  
But thus to wander unto me is sweet.  
Far Buena Vista's lights allure my weary feet.

---

\*Written at the time of the war between Spain and Morocco, in the year 1860.

## THE LEPER KNIGHT.

*A Legend of Malta.*

St. Elmo's walls are high and strong,  
Brave knights are their defenders,  
And, though the siege has lasted long,  
Not one in thought surrenders.  
  
The Moslem foe, without the gate,  
Continuously thunder,  
With furious force, impelled by hate,  
They rend the walls asunder;  
But knightly arms, in battle great,  
Still keep them back and under.

Soon crumbling walls were falling down  
Around the dead and dying.  
They won the hero-martyr crown,  
And where they fell were lying.

THE LEPER KNIGHT.

Among the few, who held the wall,  
And fearlessly awaited  
The doom that would to-morrow fall  
On brave hearts darkly fated,  
One lordly spirit heard the call  
Triumphant and elated.

For some unspoken sin, 'twas said,  
Or foil 'gainst Eastern charmer.  
He bound his helmet to his head  
And riveted his armour.  
In battle was no braver knight,  
In Council none was wiser,  
But never he to human sight  
Was known with open visor;  
His mailed hand was used to fight  
And of its blows no miser.

The bodies of his brother knights  
Were in the harbour floating,  
Whereon, with cruel revelry,  
Old Solyman was gloating.



THE LEPROUS KNIGHT.



### THE LEPER KNIGHT.

While La Valette sent Turkish heads,  
Like bombshells from each mortar,  
To show how he could take revenge  
For Gozo's ruthless slaughter,  
And all the fountains of the isle  
Ran blood instead of water.

At last St. Elmo's guns were hushed,  
Each embrasure deserted,  
And, creeping up the gloomy breach,  
The foe his way asserted.  
The castle was as still as death—  
The ramparts all forsaken  
Till eager feet in covert ways  
Unwelcome echoes waken,  
When, suddenly, the granite walls  
Were, as by earthquake, shaken!

Within the square the Chapel doors  
Flew, clanging loud, asunder:  
To gaze upon the scene within  
The Moslems stood in wonder.

### THE LEPER KNIGHT.

The altar was a blaze of light,  
Red flames about it leaping;  
Around in dinted armour clad,  
Dead knights lay as 'twere sleeping:  
One giant figure only stood  
An awful death-watch keeping.

His right hand held his battle brand,  
His left the cross uplifted,  
While, o'er his head, the smoke and flame  
In crimson billows drifted.  
Last of the garrison he stood  
Successful foes defying.  
When, headlong in a gulf of fire  
St. Elmo's walls were flying:  
Then knew Valette the Leper Knight  
Had kept his vow in dying.

## LA VALLETTE.

Upon the Bastion of Castille  
There stood an aged knight,  
He sadly viewed the crumbling walls  
That still defied the might  
Of Moslem foes, who fiercely urge  
The stern, revengeful fight.

He looks on Corradino's hill,  
And on San Salvador,  
He hears the trumpet's summons shrill,  
He hears the cannons roar,  
And all the deep recesses fill  
Along the rocky shore.

St. Elmo's walls are levelled now,  
Its brave defenders dead.

LA VALLETTE.

But still Il Borgo raises up  
A shield above his head,  
While wildly beat without its gates  
The waves of battle red.

While gazing on the scene of strife  
It faded from his glance,  
And, in its place, he saw the fields  
Of well-belovèd France;  
The years were lost that made him old,  
And youth was in the trance.

He stands within his father's halls—  
A maiden form is near—  
The heavy tread of legioned men  
Falls on a listless ear.  
The aged chief in that sweet dream  
One only voice can hear.

He often heard it in the clash  
And clangor of the field,

LA VALLETTE.

When, headlong thro' the Paynim ranks,  
His chivalry had reeled:  
He heard it, too, in midnight aisles,  
When solemn anthems pealed.

The spectre of that parting hour  
Clings to his mem'ry yet:  
Again he hears the gentle words  
Of parting and regret—  
“The knight who vows himself to God  
Must Home and Love forget.”

He sees her stand beside him now,  
Behind that deadly breach,  
While the light flashes on his brow  
From spears within his reach,  
When, suddenly, with chorus loud,  
The blaring trumpets screech.

He grasps his sword while up the slope  
The turbaned demons spring,

LA VALLETTE.

As, from the summit of the wall,  
The lighted torches fling  
A glare upon the coming host,  
While bells alarms ring.

Annuciata's spectral spires  
The frantic sounds repeat,  
As up and down throughout the town  
Echo the hurrying feet,  
Till at the old Grand Master's side  
The thronging heroes meet.

From out the gloom the Moslems rise  
With shout and battle cry,  
But, in the breach, the levelled spears  
Still breast them back to die,  
Like waves that beat against the rocks  
To break in foam and fly.

Amid the madness of the strife,  
In gloom, and blinding glare

LA VALLETTE.

The Master sees amid His knights  
A shadow still and fair,  
Though lance, and sword, and scimitar  
Meet wildly—it is there.

And through the horrid noise of war  
There comes to La Vallette  
A voice, he cannot cease to hear,  
In accents of regret—  
“The knight who vows himself to God  
Must Home and Love forget.”

## IT SNOWS AND IT BLOWS.

It snows and it blows, it is cold, stormy  
weather,

While Lonnie and Papa are sitting together;  
Sitting and singing a sweet little song—  
Lonnie and Papa the whole day long.

There are the towers on Parliament Hill,  
There is the river that runs by the mill,  
There are the houses all covered with snow,  
And there is the roadway that leads down below.

For it snows, etc.

There is the battery Papa has made,  
There is the field where his soldiers parade,  
There are the flagstaff and old magazine—  
The prettiest place that ever was seen.

For it snows, etc.

IT SNOWS AND IT BLOWS.

There is the path by the rock to the spring,  
There are the trees where the wild birds sing,  
There are the mountains misty and high,  
And over them all is the beautiful sky.

For it snows, etc.

## TWO BOYS.

These were two of the funniest boys  
That ever had a mother;  
Roland was the name of one,  
And Oliver that of the other.

One day they to the meadow went  
The old gray mare to find;  
Roland, he got up before,  
And Oliver up behind.

And then they to the river ran—  
To swim is not a sin;  
Roland sat him down on the bank—  
But Oliver tumbled in.

## TWO BOYS.

These two boys to the theatre went  
Whenever they saw fit;  
Roland in the gallery sat,  
And Oliver in the pit.

Their mother sent them both to school  
To learn to read and write;  
Roland learned his lessons well,  
But Oliver learned to fight.

On Sunday they to meeting went,  
Where all good people pray;  
Roland entered in and stayed,  
But Oliver ran away.

On the mill-pond they another day  
Went in their father's scow;  
Roland sat down in the stern,  
While Oliver stood at the prow.

TWO BOYS.

And then they cast their fishing lines  
To hook some bass and trout;  
Roland caught a mighty eel,  
Oliver an old mud pout.

These boys were then to College sent,  
Where for sometime they tarried;  
Roland took B.A., degree,  
But Oliver got married.

When they came home their father said  
That schooling did them harm,  
So Roland went to learn a trade,  
Oliver staid on the farm.

In after years these two boys met  
One day when they were out;  
Roland had grown tall and thin,  
Oliver short and stout.

TWO BOYS.

Said Roland, "I am rich and great;  
My life is full of joys;  
I ride about in coach of state,  
And all my sons are boys."

Oliver said, "I am content  
Away from city whirls.  
I've plenty, and I want no more:  
My daughters, all are girls."

The ladies then came on the scene,  
Heading their grand parades,  
Roland's numbered twenty boys,  
Oliver's twenty maids.

Then all began to laugh and sing—  
It was a happy sight—  
Oliver asked them all to come  
And sup with him that night.

TWO BOYS.

Big buns, and cakes, and pies, and tarts  
Were on the table spread,  
Sweet honey, milk, and cream, and fruit,  
And Oliver at the head.

They bade good-bye like gentlemen  
Who part upon the road;  
While Roland in his carriage sat,  
On foot old Oliver strode.

At last, when they were very old  
These two good fellows died.  
Roland he was laid at rest  
With Oliver by his side.

And all the boys and girls would come  
With flowers every day,  
And place them on the grassy beds  
Where these two brothers lay.

## THE BRITON.

From Heremon we claim descent—  
His bride King David's daughter,  
Who from the Holy Land was sent  
To Erin, o'er the water.

Since then the Norman and the Dane,  
The Teuton and the Frenchman  
Have mixed their blood, and from the strain  
Came sturdy British henchmen.

### Chorus—

Hurrah, then, for the blood and birth,  
With pedigree to fit on  
The isles and continents of earth,  
The freedom-loving Briton!

THE BRITON.

The liberties our fathers won  
We'll grant to every nation,  
Till peace and justice, like the sun,  
Shall shine o'er all creation.

We seek no conquest to oppress,  
Or trample on a foeman;  
As we are blest, we seek to bless,  
With enmity to no man.

Chorus—

Hurrah, then, for the blood and birth,  
With pedigree to fit on  
The isles and continents of earth,  
The freedom-loving Briton!

Thus Celt, and Teuton, Norman, Dane,  
Come back, like clouds from ocean,  
And fall upon the earth, like rain,  
To set the crops in motion.

### THE BRITON.

No Cadmus crop of armèd bands,  
To meet in strife infernal,  
But loving hearts and willing hands,  
To make God's peace eternal.

Chorus—

Hurrah, then, for the blood and birth,  
With pedigree to fit on  
The isles and continents of earth,  
The freedom-loving Briton!

## THE DAWNING OF THE DAY.

Give me the harp, Old Minstrel, you have sung of  
vanished things;

You have told the ancient story, not of what the  
future brings.

We have had our fill of fable; let another strike the  
strings

For Ireland at the Dawning of the Day!

This harp is mine, Old Minstrel, for the Chieftains  
of Odrone

Consigned it to my fathers—it belongs to us alone.

Not silent shall I have it while we stand around the  
throne,

For Ireland at the Dawning of the Day!

### THE DAWNING OF THE DAY.

The kings and chieftains of the past were noble in  
their time,

Their wisdom and their valor are a theme for song  
sublime,

When honor was a heritage and love was not a  
crime,

In Ireland at the Dawning of the Day!

But I charge ye, Men of Ireland! be the heroes of  
to-day!

Stand forth in fearless manhood making hirelings  
clear the way—

A glorious Faugh at Ballagh! which to hear is to  
obey,

For Ireland at the Dawning of the Day!

Be patient, calm and prudent; let your little quarrels  
die;

Be firm of foot and strong of arm, with steady  
gazing eye:

### THE DAWNING OF THE DAY.

The ground ye tread is holy ground, and God is still  
on high,  
For Ireland at the Dawning of the Day!

The victory belongs to those who to themselves are  
true—

The tree of life is standing, ripely laden, full in view.  
If ye would have the fruitage be prepared to dare  
and do

For Ireland at the Dawning of the Day!

I behold a nation rising from the ashes of the past.  
I see a host advancing with its shadow backward  
cast.

I see a line of heroes where the greatest is the last  
In Ireland at the Dawning of the Day!

I behold a people coming from the confines of the  
earth—

The women with the children who have had a higher  
birth—

## THE DAWNING OF THE DAY.

And men who have about them all the sanctities of  
worth  
For Ireland at the Dawning of the Day!

These are the Irish people of a day that's drawing  
near;  
The night of grief is gone at last, the dawn is almost  
here;  
No more they sit in sorrow, Oh! no more they  
shrink in fear  
For Ireland at the Dawning of the Day!

The noises of the night are breaking into joyous  
song;  
The millions are arising who have toiled in sorrow  
long;  
Unconquered thro' the ages, in their virtue great  
and strong,  
For Ireland at the Dawning of the Day!

### A SONG OF ZION.

We are coming, we are coming. Fling our banner  
to the breeze.

In thousands we are coming from beyond remotest  
seas.

We are coming after centuries of sorrow and of toil,  
To make our home in Palestine, and tread its holy  
soil.

O, let the song of gladness rise; let all the nations  
hear

The anthem of the mighty host of Zion drawing  
near.

Across the mountains, through the vales, and o'er  
the ocean's foam,

Behold the hosts of Israel are coming, coming home!

### A SONG OF ZION.

"Twas said of old by one whose lips were touched  
by Heaven's fire,  
That God's own house would be bulit up, than hills  
and mountains higher;  
That from its portals would go forth to all the world  
the word,  
That we may learn His ways, and walk in truth  
before the Lord;  
  
That sword and spear would broken be, rewrought  
to arts of peace;  
That all the cruelty of war and strife fore'er would  
cease;  
That nation shall not lift up sword 'gainst nation,  
as of yore,  
But listen to the voice of God and learn of war no  
more.

O, Children of the Covenant, perhaps the day is  
near—  
E'en now, if you will listen, you may hear the ac-  
cents clear

A SONG OF ZION.

Of One who calls the scattered brood—"Come to  
Me! children, Come!

My hills are vacant. Here I Am. I bid ye wel-  
come home!"

Then answer—"We are coming! Fling our banner  
to the breeze!

In thousands we are coming from beyond remotest  
seas.

We are coming after centuries of sorrow and of toil,  
To make our home in Palestine and tread its holy  
soil."

O, let the songs of gladness rise, let all the nations  
hear

The anthem of the mighty host of Israel drawing  
near.

Across the mountains, through the vales, and o'er  
the ocean's foam.

Behold the hosts of Israel are coming, coming home!

## THE JEWISH NEW YEAR, 5660.

When chaos lay beneath God's hand,  
And there was neither eve nor morn,  
The heavens answered His command,  
Broke into light, and day was born!

Together sang the stars, and all  
The hosts of heaven chorus'd clear;  
Then deep to deep was heard to call  
A greeting to the first New Year.

It was the Malchior they sang,  
Proclaiming God the sovereign King:  
Through all the host of space it rang,  
And it will never cease to ring.

THE JEWISH NEW YEAR, 5660.

Then send your voices from the shore  
Of time until all things are done:—  
“The Lord will reign forevermore!  
O! Israel, your God is One!”

Remember, in this day of life,  
The thrilling memories of the past:  
He led you safe thro’ fear and strife,  
And He will lead you to the last.

From slavery He led you free,  
You children of His word and will,  
O’er desert waste and stormy sea  
He led you, and He leads you still.

The blast of Shophar—hear it swell!  
O! Israel awake, arise!  
Remember, O! Remember well!  
“Remember!” soul to soul replies.

THE JEWISH NEW YEAR, 5660.

O, hear the call! Eternity  
May touch your feet ere it be morn;  
Another year and you may be  
Beyond the sound of Shophar horn.

The work of life unfinished lies:  
You ask a blessing—have you blest  
The bleeding heart, the weeping eyes,  
And to the weary given rest?

Have you through this departed year  
The path of duty firmly trod,  
Not faltering, with doubt and fear,  
But trusting in the word of God?

Behold, advancing from afar,  
An army terrible and fierce;  
Its banners blazoned for the war,  
Its spears aligned your hearts to pierce.

THE JEWISH NEW YEAR, 5660.

Up! Up! and face the dreadful foe,  
For you have arms to make them flee—  
God-given arms to overthrow  
The sinful host and set you free!

Then pardon, peace, and joy, and love,  
With happiness will fill your days,  
And God, who watches from above,  
Will bless you in your works and ways.

EN-SOF.

אשר מלאתיו רוח חכמה.

I number up my jewels, spread them all before your  
gaze;

I show you things of beauty, but I cannot give  
you sight;

I'm speaking words of wisdom—you may laugh and  
go your ways—

God alone gives understanding—His love alone  
is light.

I look into infinity from pinnacles of time;  
The Seer beholds the myriads advancing from  
afar;  
Still higher, ever higher, rising beautiful, sublime,  
Flaming oceans disincarnate, each particle a star.

EN SOF.

Bright stars, they are not suns nor moons, though  
these their raiment bē;

Twin essences in all exist, the Wisdom and the  
Word.

Thrones, principalities, powers, Sephiroth, mystery  
Of time and space, with God's sweet grace, obey  
for they have heard.

A grain of sand has mysteries as vast as time and  
space,

The brain that thinks, the hand that works are  
instruments of love.

Unless that spirit be your guide, there is no hope of  
grace

Throughout the whole wide universe—on earth,  
in heaven above.

Transfigured you may witness on the pages I unroll  
The spirit of the Central Sun—the One, the Three,  
the Two.

EN SOF.

Infinite love and beauty joined, the all-pervading soul;

Source of all things, the fathomless, the absolutely true.

O, Earth! now drenched in blood of war, the crimes of greed and creed,

Of men imploring mercy, tho' all mercy they denied,

Behold the Sower soweth, thou wilt fructify the seed,  
Till from thy tortured furrows comes a harvest glorified.

The missionaries preaching, then the traders with their rum—

Their bibles, cottons, gun-machines, O! Blessed Is! I see,

To civilize, to Christianize, to make their fact'ries hum,

Men toil like slaves, they die like dogs, and call that Liberty!

EN SOF.

But he who knows the world, Aziah, action—what  
to do,

Instructed by Yetzirah, world formation—clear  
seeing,

Where stands revealed in Briah, world-wide thres-  
hold to the true,

Is free from all these ills of life with Atziloth being.

Great jewels I have numbered four, but these are  
counted ten,

Yet only three by you are seen, the fourth is in  
them all,

Still it is non-existent to the grasp and thought of  
men,

Though it contains infinity—all things both great  
and small.

I look into the glories of a time that is to come:  
The angel with a flaming sword shall pass from  
Eden's gate.

Then Man shall enter in again, returning to his home,  
Triumphant over time and death, in strength of  
wisdom great.

EN SOF.

All nightmare gods of earth shall die, their altars  
overthrown

Shall lie neglected; priests no more shall libel  
Heaven's King,

Nor stand to sell salvation where their temples over-  
grown

Are mounds beneath the forest trees where happy  
wildbirds sing.

Behold Man is preparing earth for still another  
change;

With robbery and slaughter he is ravaging the  
globe,

With sateless maw and pocket, see the rav'ning  
monster range,

But neither satisfying, leaves at last an empty  
robe!

Hark! Seraphim and Cherubim, the Voice that  
speaks between;

Love, Purity, Obedience, Nitzach the Victory—

EN SOF.

Proclaim the gift I freely give—with that which is  
unseen—

That you may be in truth set free, and meet me  
by and bye

With Prinedoms, in humility, you yet may know  
the truth,

With angels by the study of the Law Divine may  
stand;

Tiphereth then is yours for aye, within the high  
Malkhuth—

With One Supreme Obedience that gives the last  
command.

Thus numbered are my jewels, thus all spread before  
your gaze.

I've shown you things of beauty, but I cannot give  
you sight.

I've spoken words of wisdom—you may laugh and  
go your ways.—

God alone gives understanding—His love alone  
is light.

## THE NINTH OF AB.\*

לא אליכם כל עברי דרד הבינו וראו אם יש  
מכאוב כמכאובי אשר עולל לי אשר הונח יהוה  
ביום חרו אפו : איך איב.

### I.

Oh, vain for hand of mine to strike this harp of  
golden strings  
Made holy by the blood and tears of prophets,  
priests and kings,  
Swept by the wind of Babylon, washed by the bitter  
sea,  
Dare I its sleeping spirit wake, Oh Israel, for thee!

---

\*On the 9th of Ab, the fifth month in the Hebrew Calendar, Jerusalem was taken by the Romans under Titus C. E. 70. There is a Jewish tradition that the temple will be restored on the same day.

THE NINTH OF AB.

II.

Shall I to mourning hearts recall the record of their  
sins,  
Where age in lamentation ends, and youth in grief  
begins,  
Since Titus thundered at thy gates with legioned  
ranks of Rome,  
While scattered far in heathen lands thy children  
dream of home?

III.

There is no sorrow like to thine; enduring as thy  
fame  
It dwells with thee forever in a memory of flame  
Unquenchable, though streams of blood upon it ever  
pour,  
Since tower and temple, hall and home went down  
to rise no more.

THE NINTH OF AB.

IV.

Oh, who can tell the fearful tale? Thy anguish who  
can know?

It fills the corridors of time with one long wail of  
woe,

The pity of it wrings my heart! When will thy sor-  
row cease?

Oh, Israel! beloved of God, when will He give thee  
peace?

V.

The earthquake, fire and tempest wind have sought  
thy hope to blast;

Be patient, and thou yet shalt hear the still, small  
voice at last.

Though gory footprints mark thy way, along the  
shores of time,

In all the ways of earth there is no pathway so  
sublime.

THE NINTH OF AB.

VI.

God-given is the heritage of suffering and pain.  
By it the glories that were thine shall yet be thine  
again.  
The rapture of thy sacrifice is what thou lovest best;  
Nor gold, nor gems, nor vows, nor pray'rs can ever  
make thee blest.

VII.

Think not because the voice of God is heard no  
more on earth  
That He forgets His covenant, or deems it little  
worth.  
Still fix thy gaze on Zion's hill. He yet will hear  
thy prayer;  
And on some Ninth of Ab shall end the years of thy  
despair.

THE NINTH OF AB.

VIII.

Oh, Christians look to Israel, the Guardian of the  
Law,  
And bare your heads, as is your wont, when over-  
come with awe.  
Sublime, pathetic, ancient, wise, he stands the unper-  
turbed,  
A testimony to mankind that God shall keep His  
word.

## THE DEVIL AND DEATH DEFEATED.

ADAPTED FROM THE MIDRASH.

The devil wandering up and down  
The earth one summer day  
Fell in love with a maiden fair,  
He met upon his way.  
Assuming mortal guise he wooed  
That maiden for his bride;  
O, he was young, and rich, and grand,  
And would not be denied.

What could she do but love him too?  
And soon they wedded were.  
O, she was very fond of him,  
And he was fond of her.

### THE DEVIL AND DEATH DEFEATED.

But he had much to do at times,  
And often stayed out late,  
At which she fretted, jealous grew,  
Bemoaning her sad fate.

She often wept, and then she pined,  
Then she began to scold,  
Till the devil wished himself in hell  
Again—out of the cold.  
To them, in time, a son was born,  
Who on its parents smiled;  
All its immortal father's love  
Was centred on the child.

But as it grew to man's estate  
The mother's nature changed,  
Because the Devil stayed out late  
And all her plans deranged.  
Her beauty turned to ugliness,  
Her love was turned to hate,  
The Devil bitterly bemoaned  
The hardship of his fate.

THE DEVIL AND DEATH DEFEATED.

So wretched was he in his home,  
Her tongue so sharp and coarse,  
He pray'd the Overlord of all  
To grant him a divorce.  
But he was told that having wed  
A mortal woman he  
Must bear his burden to the end,  
Whenever that would be.

One day the Devil told his son  
The secret of his birth,  
And swore he'd give him anything  
That he might want on earth.  
The son became a doctor and,  
Thanks to his father dread,  
His fame was spread thro' all the land  
As one who raised the dead.

"You'll know," the Devil said, "when you  
Behold me drawing nigh  
The patient lying on his bed,  
If he must live or die.



THE DEVIL AND DEATH DEFEATED



## THE DEVIL AND DEATH DEFEATED.

If to his feet I come and stand,  
Have little doubt or fear;  
If to his head, you may be sure  
That death is drawing near."

The Doctor fell in love one day,  
As doctors sometimes do,  
The maiden of his choice was fair,  
And young, and good, and true.  
But e'er he could his passion speak,  
The plague was in the town,  
And, passing, kissed her on the cheek,  
And she was stricken down.

Beside her bed the Doctor sat  
And strove most skilfully  
To save her life, more dear to him  
Than ought on earth could be.  
When, suddenly from out the gloom,  
He saw a presence dread—  
His father stood within the room,  
Anear the patient's head.

THE DEVIL AND DEATH DEFEATED.

“O! spare my love;” the Doctor cried.  
“She must not—shall not die!”  
The Devil said, “I must obey  
    The order from on high.  
There is no power to change her fate,  
    No higher and no other.”—  
“There is! There is! I’m not too late!  
    I’ll go and call my mother!”

At that the Devil took to flight,  
    Nor stayed a moment longer.  
“There is a power of greater might,”  
    The Doctor said, “and stronger  
Than death or hell. I’ve proved it here,  
    Dispute the fact can no man,  
More bitter than the grave—the fear  
    Of a jealous, vengeful woman!”

I N D E X.



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